



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-178
Thursday
14 September 1995

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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat, Arab League Chief Hold News Conference

NC1309113895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1105 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isnat 'Abd-al-Majid and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a joint news conference following their meeting. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed the Arab League's belief in and support for the Palestinian cause. He said the presence of the Palestinian President in the Arab League represents a feature of this support by the Arab house—the house of all Palestinians.

President 'Arafat said he informed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid of efforts on every Arab and international level to serve the Palestinian cause and people. He said he also informed the Arab League chief of current Palestinian-Israeli differences and of the obstacles the Palestinians are facing at the negotiations.

'Arafat stressed the need for sincere support for the Palestinians so that they can confront the challenges to their cause at this delicate stage of negotiations, which he described as difficult and extremely hard.

This difficulty, he said, meant elections on Palestinian territory had been delayed for 14 months so far. He stressed that the elections will be democratic, legislative, free, and away from the Israeli military presence.

Asked about the Palestinian position on Libya's deportation of Palestinians, 'Arafat said he discussed this issue with the Arab League secretary general and with President Husni Mubarak yesterday. He said he asked President Mubarak to make moves regarding the deportation of Palestinians from Libya.

He noted that President Mubarak has turned special attention to the peace process and to issues relating to the Palestinian cause.

On Hebron's place in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, 'Arafat said Hebron is a Palestinian city and must be treated like other Palestinian cities.

League Chief Asks al-Qadhdhafi To Delay Deportation

NC1309164095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1605 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isnat 'Abd-al-Majid telephoned Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, today in an attempt to solve the problem caused by the deportation of Palestinians residing and working in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asked Col. al-Qadhdhafi to postpone the

deportation in view of the difficult conditions faced by these Palestinians.

The Arab League's action follows a request by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who made an unexpected visit to the Arab League headquarters today. He met with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, briefed him on recent developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, and asked the League to intercede with Libya in the deportation affair.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi earlier decided to deport all Palestinians residing and working in Libya to Gaza and Jericho on the grounds that these two areas are their homeland where they must reside.

Arab Interior Ministers Council Denounces 'Terrorism'

LD1309150495 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1320 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 13 Sep — The General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council has said that Islam disowns the terrorists and subversive elements who aim to destroy the vital installations of the Arab nation and exhaust its wealth and resources as well as terrorize peaceful people and shed the blood of innocent women, children, and elderly people.

In a statement released in Tunis, the Secretariat stressed the determination and resolve of the Arab Interior Ministers Council to put an end to the phenomenon of terrorism in order to guarantee the security and safety of individuals in the Arab world.

It added that all the acts of violence affecting the Arab world are part of the terrorism which Islam denounces and urges people to combat and oppose. The statement also said that the phenomenon of terrorism is alien to our Arab societies and that it is being nurtured by foreign elements whose aim is to tear apart the Arab nation, weaken it, and exhaust its wealth and resources.

The statement pointed out that due to the growing terrorism and the increasing operations of violence and sabotage in some Arab countries, the Arab Interior Ministers Council has decided to take positive and tangible measures to confront and oppose this phenomenon. It added that the third meeting of the Committee on New Crimes, due to be held on 19 and 20 September by the General Secretariat, will be devoted to terrorist crimes.

The statement also indicated that during the meeting, the committee will discuss the project of an Arab strategy to combat terrorism which should have been completed some time ago had it not been for the failure of the United Nations to hold the international conference it

promised to organize to discuss this phenomenon and define ways and means to combat and oppose it.

The statement added that at its last session, the Council had asked the General Secretariat to set up a working group made up of representatives of the member states to rewrite the draft code of conduct on ways to combat terrorism which had been proposed by the Arab Republic of Egypt. The group will take into account the views and observations expressed by the Arab states on the subject.

In its statement, the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council appealed to all the Arab bodies to do their utmost in order to support the efforts of the security services aimed at dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism in all its aspects. It referred to the intensive efforts made by the Arab League and some of its specialized ministerial councils with a view to dealing with and containing the phenomenon of terrorism. It added that the General Secretariat of the Council is currently taking part in the proceedings of the 9th [as received] Committee of the Arab League, whose task is to draw up an Arab agreement to combat terrorism.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 5 Sep
NC1209102495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 5 September edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writer Urges Sudanese Public To Punish Rulers
2. Official, Non-Governmental Delegations Agree on Women's issues
3. Egyptian-CIS Media Cooperation
4. Writer Defends al-Azhar's Moderation, Influence
5. Events in Bosnia-Herzegovina Termed a Conspiracy
6. Muslims Worldwide: Ukrainian Mufti Interviewed
7. Australian Muslim Women Hold Congress
8. Muslim Conferences in Bonn, Moscow

WRITER URGES SUDANESE PUBLIC TO PUNISH RULERS

Samir Rajab's editorial column "Rightfully I say" on page 1 urges the Sudanese people to punish "the ruling gang in Sudan" in implementation of what he says is their "responsibility" and religious duty. If the people do not do that, "their suffering at the hands of God will also be severe because they will have refused to obey God's wishes and teachings."

Rajab illustrates the punishment he sees fit for the Sudanese rulers with the following Koranic verse with which he begins his 400-word article:

"The punishment of those who wage war against God and his apostle, and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposites sides, or exile from the land. That is their disgrace in this world, and a heavy punishment is theirs in the hereafter."

He notes that Egypt is able to inflict the "required punishment" itself, but does not want to do so in order to spare the blood of innocent Sudanese.

He recommends "expulsion of their diplomatic mission" from Cairo and halting air flights between the two countries.

He concludes: "Someone might say: Why should the Sudanese brothers be punished also? The answer is obvious: Their rulers have brought them down to the abyss. Let them now punish them in the manner they deem fit. It is their cause, first and foremost."

OFFICIAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS AGREE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

A 150-word report on page 1 says that the delegates to Beijing's UN World Conference on women have been split into two "fronts." One front wishes to push through the document that "is trying to impart legitimacy to liberal Western mores and to dictate them to the rest of the world, particularly in the spheres of abortion, sex education at schools, and free sexual relations." The other front, led by Egypt, Iran, and Turkey, "in addition to the Vatican," seeks to confront the provisions of the document that contradict "Islamic shari'ah and other heavenly edicts."

On page 16, there is a 700-word interview with Muhammad al-Sa'id Mustafa, director of the Egyptian Central Administration of Private Societies and Women's Federations. He says that the Egyptian non-governmental delegation, meeting with other private delegations at Huairou outside Beijing, has reached an agreement with the official delegation led by Mrs. Mubarak not to accept any discussion encroaching on Islamic shari'ah at either forum. He denies that the Egyptian non-governmental delegation has tried to "embarrass" the official delegation by discussing women's issues not covered by Islamic shari'ah.

EGYPTIAN-CIS MEDIA COOPERATION

Page 3 is largely devoted to a 2,000-word report by Samih Mahrus on a meeting between Egyptian and CIS

journalists at the offices of al-Tahrir Publishing and Printing House, held in the context of an Egyptian-CIS media cooperation program.

Noted Journalist Samir Rajab, chairman of the al-Tahrir Publishing and Printing House, addressed the meeting. He spoke of religious tolerance in the country, said religion is not a divisive factor, and declared that Coptic Egyptians have the opportunity to assume various posts. He said the Egyptian press enjoys a large measure of freedom and that journalists are not required to write what the government wants.

'AQIDATI's chief editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf reviewed the communist attempt to stamp out Islam in the former Soviet republics and referred to Egypt's current efforts to offset this Soviet legacy by granting scholarships to CIS students and supplying these republics with translated copies of the Koran.

WRITER DEFENDS AL-AZHAR'S MODERATION, INFLUENCE

A 500-word article in the "In Total Frankness" column by Basyuni al-Halawani on page 6 defends the role played by the al-Azhar institute in Egypt and the Islamic world at large. The writer feels that this defense is necessary because of "conspiracies that surround al-Azhar on every side, seek to weaken its role, and ruin its reputation among rulers and public alike."

Al-Halawani writes: "Those who are dismayed by al-Azhar's message begrudge its right to express Islam's position and defend its noble religious principles. They regard its advice and instructions as meddling interference as if it's the Vatican that is responsible for defending Islamic values."

He continues: "Those dismayed by al-Azhar's message are constantly trying to provoke a quarrel between the Egyptian leaders and the officials of this ancient and venerable Islamic establishment. It is as if al-Azhar has turned into a terrorist fortress and is posing a threat to Egypt's security and stability."

Citing al-Azhar's defense of religious values during Cairo's UN International Conference on Population and Development and its recent warning statement about the "agenda" of Beijing's UN World Conference on Women, the writer remarks that al-Azhar "has begun, contrary to its haters' wishes, to regain its role and civilizing message in its capacity as the primary Islamic institute and the official spokesman for Islam in today's world."

He adds that the "arrows shot by the opponents have failed to alienate the Muslim masses from al-Azhar" and the enemies will not be able to achieve their objectives

"as long as al-Azhar and its ulema adhere to sound Islamic policy, defend justice and right, and embrace a middle-of-the-road motto of moderation."

EVENTS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA TERMED A CONSPIRACY

Events in Bosnia-Herzegovina are given ample coverage in this issue. On page 1 there is a three-column photo of Bosnian women praying in a mosque, accompanied by this caption:

"In the midst of the tragedy experienced by Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the international conspiracy against the Bosnian nation, the Bosnian woman's role features prominently. Despite the hideous immoral crimes she faces, she is carrying out her role in preparing her sons to defend land and honor, assiduously performs her Islamic duties, and goes to the mosque to pray. Will the UN World Conference on Women that is meeting in Beijing remember the Bosnian Woman's jihad and the crimes daily perpetrated against her, or has this conference preoccupied itself with the issues of abortion and sexual freedom?"

A 100-word report immediately under this is entitled: "NATO, Is it Rescuing Bosnia-Herzegovina or Implementing the Conspiracy?!"

The report cites "observers" as saying that NATO's air strikes have failed to make the Serbs stop shelling Sarajevo and wondering if the air raids are part of the international conspiracy being implemented "under the aegis of the new world order."

A 550-word column on page 10 asks why NATO is acting now after four years of doing nothing. Writing under the headline "It Is Time To Halt the Bloodbaths in Bosnia-Herzegovina!!," Majdi Salim says that the whole exercise has been an attempt to keep Europe free of any Islamic entity. He remarks that the Bosnian president has "surrendered" and declared that Bosnia-Herzegovina is not an Islamic country, but a European country whose citizens are adherents of Islam.

The writer says: "What happened in Bosnia over the past four years is an inevitable outcome of the rearrangement of Europe under the new world order, which has decided to evacuate the continent of any Islamic entity. Hence war was necessary as a remedy to cure Europe of the Islamic disease represented by the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Commenting on NATO's current military actions against the Serbs, he remarks: "Why do they want to stop the bloodbaths now? It is because the plan has been completed."

He concludes by saying: "All this means that Bosnia-Herzegovina has become a small canton with no power base to protect it—except U.S. wishes. The United States can safeguard it if it wants. If it wants, also, it can wipe it from the face of the earth."

On page 21, the paper carries a 250-word straightforward report on the situation in Bosnia without any additional comments.

On page 20, a 300-word article by 'Adil Dayf says that the "West in its entirety completely rejects the existence of a Muslim state in Europe." He explains the latest NATO anti-Serb strikes as "a diffident admission that the Serbian criminals have exceeded all bounds" and regrets the fact that these strikes will not restore Bosnian rights. To get back their territories, he says the Bosnians must fight until "eventual victory" with "Islamic military, economic, and moral support."

MUSLIMS WORLDWIDE: UKRAINIAN MUFTI INTERVIEWED

In a 1,500-word interview on page 20 conducted by Muhammad al-Abnudi, the Mufti of Ukrainian Muslims, identified as Ahmad Tamim, discusses the concerns of Muslims in his country. He says that there are eight millions Muslims in the Ukraine of various nationalities including Afghan, Chechen, Tajik, Dagestani, Somali and other. He says they are mainly merchants and donate sums to the religious administration that he chairs.

He says Ukrainian Muslims face two problems: "suspect movements" that undermine Islam by encouraging extremist and erroneous beliefs meant to discredit Islam and secondly, movements that propagate versions of Islam like the Baha'i faith and Qadianism that are considered heretical.

He urges Muslim countries to correct Western ideas about Islam in order to make life easier for Muslim minorities in the West. He also calls for inter-Muslim dialogue to avoid denominational strife.

AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM WOMEN HOLD CONGRESS

A 180-word news item on page 20 says that the Society of Muslim Women in Australia recently held its second annual conference. The meeting focused on ways of enlightening delegates about the responsibilities of Muslim families and correcting the image of Muslim women in Australian society at large.

The item says that the Society of Muslim Women in Australia issues a regular newsletter and many of its members deliver lectures to non-Muslim women with the aim of propagating the call of the faith.

MUSLIM CONFERENCES IN BONN, MOSCOW

Two brief items of roughly 100 words each on page 21 cite planned Muslim conferences in Germany and Russia. The first item cites a German Foreign Ministry announcement about a planned two-day conference in Bonn in November to which 150 politicians and experts have been invited, including the Egyptian, Indonesian, Iranian, and Saudi foreign ministers. A Bonn spokeswoman said the conference is a German initiative to begin a new Christian-Muslim dialogue.

The second report is about a conference organized by the Federation of Russian Muslims that began in Moscow "last Friday." The report says that the "conference seeks to revive the Muslim Federation that was founded in 1905 and became defunct with the advent of the Bolshevik revolution in 1917."

Islamic Scholar Dr. al-Qardawi Interviewed

95AE0060A Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 25 Aug 95
p 10

[Interview with Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi by Taha Jabr at Egyptian Journalists' Union in Cairo; date not given: "Muslims Must Boycott Israeli Goods; Consultation (Shura) and Democracy Are Two Sides of One Coin"—first two paragraphs are AL-SHARQ introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a large gathering of journalists and intellectuals after his lecture at the Journalists' Union, His Excellency Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi answered audience questions that ranged through a variety of fields including Islamic law, theology, and everyday affairs.

The following are the questions and answers after the lecture:

[Jabr] Your Excellency, what is your view concerning the retreat of French authorities from seizing your book "The Permitted and the Forbidden in Islam"?

[Al-Qardawi] The French interior minister has apologized, calling it an administrative error. I say that if the seizure really took place, it would be not just an administrative mistake, but also a political and cultural one. I have spoken a great deal about the matter, and there is no need to go into it again.

[Jabr] You often speak about setting priorities. What is there that is new in the subject?

[Al-Qardawi] Muslims must weigh things against each other. We need to know the priorities in the life of the individual, the group, and the nation.

[Jabr] What is religion's view of installment payment? Is it permitted or forbidden?

[Al-Qardawi] Installment payment is selling merchandise with an increase in the price. There is nothing to forbid it; there is even some evidence for it. It is permissible according to the consensus of the community as well as the opinion of the majority of Islamic scholars. However, I would encourage people not to be in urgent need of it, lest Muslims subject themselves to debt every month. Strangely, we find many people eager to buy on the installment plan although they have no need to do so.

[Jabr] Your Excellency, what do you think about buying Israeli goods?

[Al-Qardawi] Zionist goods may not be bought. Buying them should be deemed one of God's greatest prohibitions, for they are goods that come to us from an enemy who occupies our lands—al-Aqsa Mosque, Hebron, and other places—and who seizes and usurps lands. The least we can do is to boycott these goods and not buy them, because buying them involves a great sin and great guilt. Boycotting them is the duty of all Muslims. Buying their goods is reprehensible; one may not buy from them even if the price of the goods is less than the price of Muslim goods.

I stress that the Egyptian people have been able to assert themselves on this issue despite the pressures they are suffering and the psychological barrier they have encountered since the signing of the Camp David agreement.

[Jabr] Your Excellency, what does religion say about women undertaking to summon people to God?

[Al-Qardawi] Women undoubtedly are called upon to summon people to God—as God says: "Say, 'This is my way. I call to God with sure knowledge, I and whoever follows me.'" [Koran 12:108] Islam addresses men and women alike in this matter. Let us not forget that the first support of the Messenger of God (may God bless him and grant him peace) was from a woman and that the first martyr in Islam was Sumayyah (may God be pleased with her). Summoning to God should be in their blood. They certainly are no less than Israeli women, who fight in the Israeli army. We have also seen communist women go to prison for their shabby ideas.

The Islamic movement can be blamed for not highlighting the role of the Islamic women's movement. Women influence both their husbands and their children.

[Jabr] Certain terms such as slavery are bandied about in the West—and whether Christ (on whom be peace) was slain or died. Would you please inform us?

[Al-Qardawi] Islam fully welcomed the abolition of the institution of slavery from the time the Koranic verses were revealed that forbade it. As for the death of Christ (on whom be peace) and the report that he was raised up before he died or that he did not die, there is disagreement among jurists and the body of scholars. Some say that he died before being raised to heaven, but the majority of scholars think that God raised him and that he did not die.

[Jabr] What is your opinion about some people's custom of distributing candy for the birthday of the Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace)? What does Islamic law provide concerning this?

[Al-Qardawi] Celebrating the Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace) on the day of his birth really is celebrating Muhammad's mission and reminding people of his Sunna, so that they follow his guidance and walk on his path. The early Muslims did not celebrate his birthday because they lived with him, followed his example, obeyed his commands, and avoided what he forbade. Holiday candy, as it is called, is a custom that people have adopted and maintained. It has no basis in religion or in the Prophet's noble Sunna.

[Jabr] Your Excellency, what is the relation between Islamic consultation (shura) and the Western system of democracy?

[Al-Qardawi] Islam does not accept anyone who would rule the Islamic peoples by fire and iron or anyone whom these people hate: "Pharaoh and Haman and their hosts were sinners" [Koran 28:8]. Islam wants peoples to choose their rulers by pledge of allegiance, not by compulsion and cruelty. Islam terms rulers "imams," which is most like what is termed "the great imamate."

Consultation (shura) in its broad sense is mutual consultation and an exchange of different views on all issues. However, Islam did not set specific rules for it. This is an instance of God's mercy toward his worshippers. If there were such rules, Muslims would be obliged to follow and obey them, but men have been left to determine them within the Islamic framework. If men find new forms to prevent despotism, injustice, and tyranny and to strengthen the people against tyrants, then it would be all right to follow these forms, as long as they pare the claws of tyrants. Democracy contains guarantees of freedom and means to restrain despotic rulers. It is a legitimate policy fully acceptable under Islamic law. Consultation (shura) and democracy are two sides of one coin.

[Jabr] What is your opinion of what Muslims are now suffering—murder, destruction of their homes, repression, and vindictive measures against them?

[Al-Qardawi] This is happening because we have neglected to practice freedom and because we have not applied Islam in our lives. We must back Islam and help those from the Islamic countries oppressed because of their religion. Whoever does this will have a great reward.

[Jabr] What do you think about importing foreign workers into Muslim countries?

[Al-Qardawi] I have often criticized the practice on Qatari television and in my sermons and lectures. Muslim labor is better and much more fitting, because it avoids binding us to nonbelievers. If there is a pressing need, I think that Muslim workers should be imported. Certainly they are more deserving of consideration.

[Jabr] From time to time, some journalists attack the Islamic current. What do you think about this?

[Al-Qardawi] Unfortunately, some people do not respect themselves or their own words; they do not know that they are responsible before God. People are responsible for their words. Journalists have a great responsibility for all that they write. There are people who do indeed respect themselves and their words. We appreciate them greatly. I call on journalists to strive for truth in everything they write.

Palestinian Affairs

Kanafani Says 'Arafat-Peres Meeting 'Postponed'

JN1309160295 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1400 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland this afternoon from the Arab Republic of Egypt. Upon his arrival at the Presidency in Gaza, President 'Arafat asserted that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations are still discussing details of the agreement. Speaking to reporters, the president said Israel is still creating obstacles, noting that there has been no progress in the negotiations.

President 'Arafat met yesterday evening with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria. They exchanged views about ways to overcome the obstacles blocking an agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles agreement, especially the issue of Hebron. The two presidents also discussed the effects of the Libyan decision to expel thousands of Palestinians from Libya. The president also met with other Egyptian officials.

Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, said it was agreed with the Israeli side to postpone the meeting between President 'Arafat

and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Taba until early next week.

Kanafani said that for the third day running, the gangs of extremist settlers have continued their rabid onslaught, as he characterized it, against the citizens of the city of Hebron, under the very gaze of the Israeli occupation forces, which are standing idle.

Kanafani said nothing will prevent the National Authority from ensuring an end to the occupation in the city of Hebron, just like other Palestinian cities. He added that it is impermissible, on the ethical, legal, and humanitarian levels, for some families of the settlers in Hebron to impose their will on 150,000 Palestinian citizens in the largest Palestinian city. Kanafani said these provocations will not undermine the determination of the Palestinian people and their National Authority. These provocations do not serve the peace process. Kanafani said the Palestinian commitment to peace must be reciprocated by an Israeli commitment.

Delayed for More Negotiations in Elat

JN1309200895 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1900 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said that his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres scheduled to be held in Taba has been postponed for some time so that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations meeting in Elat would be able to hold in-depth negotiations on the pending difficulties between the two sides.

Following his meeting with U.S. Archbishop Pat Robertson at the Presidential Office in Gaza this evening, 'Arafat said that he was very pleased to meet with U.S. Archbishop Robertson. The president said that during the meeting, discussions were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere on advancing the peace process and the Palestinian-U.S. coordination in this field. President 'Arafat pointed out that it is important for the Israeli Army to prevent the settlers from carrying out acts against children in Hebron.

For his part, the U.S. archbishop hoped peace will be achieved in the Middle East. He stressed the need for peaceful coexistence between the Arab and Jewish cousins. He added that he held cordial talks with the president and that he received answers to all his questions. The U.S. archbishop said that he hopes to contribute to advancing the peace process.

Quray' Expects Agreement Possibly 'Next Week'

JN1409080695 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0600 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', trade and economy minister and head of the Palestinian delegation to negotiations in Elat, said that Palestinian and Israeli groups are working intensively to conclude their meetings and prepare for the upcoming meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

In statements to the press Abu-'Ala' added: If progress in the negotiations is made today or tomorrow, an agreement could be reached next week. Otherwise, things will be extremely difficult. He said the Palestinian and Israeli delegations began formulating the general agreement, the security annex, and maps.

Signing Depends on Hebron Agreement

TA1409115895 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1100 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], head of the Palestinian delegation for the Elat talks, has said that the agreement on the expansion of the autonomy will be signed as scheduled next week if the Peres-'Arafat meeting on 16 September yields an agreement on Hebron. Abu-'Ala' believes that Israel will present new ideas regarding the issue of Hebron because it intends to settle the dispute in this meeting.

According to him, if an agreement is indeed made, the Oslo B agreement will be initialed on that day, and the full signing ceremony will take place on 21 September.

'Arafat Said Seeking Reconciliation With Qaddumi

MM1409112095 *London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic*
10-16 Sep 95 p 14

[Unattributed report: "Egypt and Jordan: No Mediation to Resolve Differences Between Abu-'Ammar ('Arafat) and Abu-al-Lutf (Qaddumi)"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Palestinian sources have confirmed that President 'Arafat is currently in touch with some PLO leaders inside and outside [the territories], in conjunction with his senior political advisers, in order to announce the formation of a reconciliation committee intended to act as a mediator between him and some PLO leaders abroad who are opposed to his current policy, namely Faruq Qaddumi, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Sulayman al-Najjab. It is also intended to achieve reconciliation, put an end to disagreements involving threats by Qaddumi and his group to suspend membership of the PLO and Fatah, cooperate with the 10 Palestinian factions in Syria, and form a Palestinian

committee to oppose 'Arafat and his policies regarding the current negotiations with Israel and his leadership of the Palestinian Authority.

The sources said, citing people close to 'Arafat, that he has actually formed a committee of three people acceptable to Qaddumi and his group: Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), Jamal al-Surani (Abu-'Umar), and Faysal al-Husayni. The committee will be responsible for conducting urgent contacts with Qaddumi to resolve the disagreements. Qaddumi recently refused to attend meetings of both the Fatah Central Committee and the Executive Committee and demanded that separating the membership of the Fatah Central Committee from that of the PLO Executive Committee be reexamined, that the two posts should not be combined, and that hard-line leaders be appointed to the Palestinian delegation currently negotiating with Israel. He also refused to sign the final agreement on the extension of self-rule until all pending issues in it, such as sharing water and freeing all detainees, are resolved.

Some diplomatic sources in Cairo have said that Egypt and Jordan refused the Palestinian president's request for Cairo and Amman to mediate between him and Qaddumi.

Sources on Hamas Factions, Possible Split in Ranks

TA1309182595 *Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic*
12 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources have said that there are three major currents in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. One political current is trying to devise a formula for coexistence with the Palestinian National Authority that will allow it to engage in political activity and participate in electing the self-rule council. In the first weeks of implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, this current made a long stride toward this end by holding a dialogue with independent Palestinian figures to work out a political action program within the framework of the Oslo accord. According to informed Palestinian sources, however, this attempt failed under pressure from radical elements in Hamas. This radical current is known as "the military current" because it resorts to violence in a bid to undermine the political current.

The third current in the movement, which tries to reconcile the other two currents and devise a formula for convergence between them, has no impact like that of the political current.

In the view of some observers, suicide operations might be expressions of disagreements within Hamas. The observers do not rule out the possibility that military

operations are undertaken to foil colleagues in Hamas who are seeking to take part in the Palestinian political process. This is the means always used by extremists to foil settlements.

The informed Palestinian sources said that Hamas might witness splits within its ranks, especially in light of progress in the peace process and the desire by some of its cadres to run in the elections for the self-rule council.

Fatah's Zaki Comments on Talks, PA, Hamas

TA1309165895 *Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic* 9 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hebron, Bethlehem — Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki has affirmed his adherence to his position against the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, the second anniversary of which falls next week.

Zaki, who returned to the occupied territories on 7 September, told QUDS PRESS that "change of situation under no circumstances means change of position and conviction." Zaki, who left the occupied West Bank 28 years ago, added: "I return to the homeland today holding the same ideas that I held abroad.

Zaki said: "I hope there will be real negotiations, not negotiations where one side takes and the other gives in the hope of inducing the Israelis to withdraw their forces from deep inside Palestinian towns." The Fatah official, however, said: "I respect the decisions of the central leadership (the PLO leadership) and I will try my utmost to improve the negotiations in a bid to achieve a genuine peace."

Zaki, who for the past eight years held the post of secretary of the Palestinian intifadah higher committee, affirmed: "I support the Palestinian Authority [PA] so that it could move forward. I do not want a formalistic authority, but one that has sovereignty over our land."

He said: "We have not returned to the homeland to rule but to regain our legitimate rights." [passage omitted]

Zaki stressed that "the Israeli leadership should be well aware that the Palestinian leadership has made the last concession for the sake of peace that it can. It cannot offer more concessions. If Israeli officials realize this fact, I believe that we can expect a genuine peace in the future."

Zaki emphasized that the issues of Hebron and Jerusalem "are red lines which cannot be crossed." Without giving further clarifications, he called for drawing up a timetable for evacuating the Israeli settlements from the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Zaki said: "I call on our brothers in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to evaluate the conditions. I do not accept that the Palestinian police be confronted with armed militias under the name of opposition. In return, the PA should give Hamas its right to express itself. Hamas should acknowledge that there is only one authority and that there cannot be two authorities." [passage omitted]

Gaza Man Killed While Preparing Explosive Charge

TA1309124395 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew* 1200 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] One man was killed and a woman suffered medium wounds in a bomb explosion in Gaza's al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood. Palestinian police sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the explosion apparently occurred while the two were preparing a bomb.

Identified as Hamas Military Member

JN1309164795 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic* 1530 GMT 13 Sep 5

[FBIS Translated Text] An informed source at the Palestinian police has said that the person who was killed as a result of the explosion that took place at the al-Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza today has been identified as Ibrahim Nassar, member of the Hamas military wing. A woman was also wounded in the explosion. It is believed that the explosion took place while Nassar was preparing an explosive charge to carry out a terrorist operation.

PA Tries 2 Men; 14 Extradition Requests Rejected

TA1409120195 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew* 1100 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Gaza, two more terrorists, members of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm, were each handed a 12-year prison term. Khalid al-Qidrah, the Palestinian Authority [PA] general prosecutor, announced that the two are 25-year-old Yusuf Malaki and 24-year-old Usamah Abu-Taha, both from Rafah. They had been convicted of carrying out attacks with automatic weapons outside the autonomy boundaries. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Malaki is suspected of murdering two elevator technicians in Ramla, and Abu-Taha is suspected of carrying out attacks against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in, among other places, the Morag Junction, Rafah, and Kissufim.

The Samaria and Judea District Police last year filed 14 extradition requests with the Palestinians, asking for

suspects who have fled to Gaza and Jericho, seven of whom are suspected of having murdered Jews. Chief Superintendent Avraham Mantzur told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that the Palestinians have turned down all of the requests under various pretexts.

'Thousands' of Jerusalemites Seek Israeli ID's
TA1309125995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 13 Sep 95 p 5

[Report by Knesset correspondent Gabi Bron]

[FBIS Translated Text] Thousands of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem have recently taken steps to escape coming under the control of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the future.

They are turning to the Interior Ministry for ID's, which they had avoided doing for years for nationalist reasons. They now want the ID's so that they will be able to claim Israeli citizenship, thereby avoiding having to live in the PA.

The request for Israeli ID's is not their only method. Many Palestinian families have recently moved to areas that will remain under Israeli control even within the framework of the final settlement with the PA, especially in the Jerusalem area and what the draft interim accord calls "Area C."

Confirmation of the phenomenon was given by intelligence sources to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The sources said that in several cases they also involve attempts to move to Israel proper through family ties or construction on private land within sovereign Israel.

Alliance Urges Libya, Lebanon To Reverse Measures

JN1309194695 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] has issued a political statement on the second anniversary of the Oslo accord of liquidation. [passage omitted]

In a meeting held recently, the APF reviewed the recent measures against the Palestinian people who reside in Libya to deport them from Libya on the pretext that they should return to their homeland, Palestine. The APF also reviewed the recent measures taken by the Lebanese Government, preventing Lebanon's Palestinians from entering Lebanon, as well as the statements made by several Lebanese officials in this regard.

The APF would like to emphasize the following:

1. The Palestinian people have for a long time been waging a bitter struggle, baptized with blood and sacrifices, to liberate their homeland and return to it. Their struggle to achieve this noble national objective has never stopped. The Palestinian people have always remained united with their nation. They struggled within the nation's ranks and contributed to development efforts in all the countries they lived in.

2. The way the Palestinians were deported from Libya shocked the masses of the Palestinian people and their national forces, especially since it is not possible for the Palestinians to return to their homeland under the Oslo accord of liquidation. This accord does not represent the aspirations of the Palestinian people and ignores the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland, leaving them prey to liquidation schemes.

3. Regardless of the intentions of the Libyan leadership, which took this step, it is 'Arafat and his team who will benefit from this. This step will not embarrass 'Arafat. He will use it to peddle his schemes and propagate his policy which says that the Arab nation has abandoned the Palestinian people.

4. The APF appeals to the Libyan leadership to reverse this decision and host the Palestinian people who work in Libya until they can return to their homeland, in keeping with the historic pan-Arab stands of the Libyan leadership.

The APF also reviewed the recent measures adopted by the Lebanese Government and the irresponsible statements made by some Lebanese officials. While denouncing these measures and expressing its dismay at these statements, the APF calls on the Lebanese Government to cancel its measures toward those who have travel documents. These measures harm the Palestinian cause and people, who have rejected and resisted settlement plans, since they are concerned about their cause and care about the interests of the Lebanese people, who offered a lot of sacrifices for the Palestinian cause.

Commentary on Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Peace Process

MM1209160295 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 11 Sep 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Egypt, Syria, and Card Collecting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan's backtracking on its decision to seek alternatives to Iraqi oil supplies and the visit, announced yesterday, of its energy minister to Baghdad to renew oil supply agreements between the two countries confirm two things: First, Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have toned down their enthusiasm, if only outwardly, for Jordan's new role in

expediting the change in the Baghdad regime. Second, the Egyptian-Syrian move is capable of hindering any U.S.-Israeli orientation in the region, if it conflicts with the two countries' interests and marginalizes their role.

We must remember that the Kuwaiti Government was supportive of the Jordanian role, whose early features appeared on the political map by facilitating General Husayn Kamil's defection and providing the political and informational background for his new plan to change the regime in the country. It also started normalizing relations with Jordan, forgave it all its sins, and forgot all about the apology issue when it agreed unreservedly to supply it with its oil needs if it closed its borders with Iraq. As for Saudi Arabia, which played host to Husayn Kamil on a secret visit, it has cleaned its old pipelines in preparation for pumping additional quantities.

The unexpected Syrian-Egyptian move resulted in the equation being reversed, the plan for change in Iraq being hindered, and the Baghdad regime being given some rare breathing space, inside and outside, enabling it to put its house in order and revise many aspects of its foreign policy.

The question that comes to mind concerns the next Syrian step. We have become accustomed to the Syrian leadership's uncommon skill in thwarting opponents' plans, without producing constructive alternatives.

To be clear, we are saying that Syria cannot stay unmoved and Egypt silent in the face of the current U.S. onslaught. If President Mubarak's government has started to react to the undeclared Israeli-Jordanian security and economic confederation by supporting the almost rigid Palestinian negotiating stance, Syria continues to play its traditional role in collecting as many of the Iraqi and Palestinian cards as possible, waving them without using any.

Syria thwarted the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of 17 May and paralyzed the effectiveness of the opposition Iraqi National Congress until it crumbled from the inside, but without creating an effective alternative. It opposed the Oslo agreement and the Israeli-Jordanian treaty without advocating an effective opposition. It sent its forces to participate in the Gulf war without extracting any clear pledges from Washington to implement the Security Council resolutions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Syria's vacillation between peace and absence of peace and Egypt's submission to the U.S.-Israeli demands to ease the way for a settlement on the present terms and compliance with Saudi and Kuwaiti plans to hinder Arab reconciliation and prolong the blockade on Iraq, have all

led to the situation the region is witnessing: clear Israeli infiltrations and U.S. maneuvers.

When the Egyptian leadership eased its pressure on the Palestinians, Israeli proposals in the peace negotiations were no longer as easily accepted as they were two years ago. The easing of pressure was not out of pity for the Palestinians but anger at Israel's disregard for the Egyptian gateway in its dealings with the other Arabs.

When Syrian policy shifted slightly from its priority focus on Lebanon, and became aware of the danger surrounding it as a result of getting bogged down in this quagmire, the Husayn Kamil trend receded and shrank.

The Syrian-Egyptian alliance must abandon its fluctuating graph and enter a phase of continuity built on solid foundations impervious to temperamental change and vacillations dictated by narrow interests. The Israeli threat is now more fierce and ambitious because of the Egyptian-Syrian mistakes due to abiding by U.S. promises and assurances.

Regrettably, we do know what Syria does not want and what Egypt abhors, but we do not know what Syria wants and Egypt aspires to. They are both against U.S.-sponsored change in Baghdad but not for leading an Arab campaign to lift the blockade. They are both against heated normalization but do not effectively oppose any Arab side embarking on it. They are both sensitive about a Middle East system that facilitates Israeli assimilation into the region. But they are weakening joint Arab action by weakening the Arab League and adopting divisive formulas such as the Damascus declaration.

In short, we want clearer positions from Egypt and Syria on all current crises. The policy of thwarting the adversary's attacks is a negative policy with limited and temporary success, and adds to the confusion in the region. The time has now come for the two countries to crystallize a common strategy based on Arab national constants and to confront the Israeli security and economic plan which the United States sponsors and tries to impose on everyone under the guise of various names and slogans.

PA, World Bank Agree on Distribution of Funds

TA1409080295 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0505 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority (PA) and the World Bank have reached an agreement according to which international aid will henceforth be transferred directly to the PA, and not to the Palestinian Economic Committee on Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), set up by the PLO after signing the Oslo A

agreement. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has the details:

[Ben-Menahem] The PLO set up PECNDAR, headed by Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray], as the official address for international aid to the PA soon after signing the Oslo accord. Peace Watch, which monitors the implementation of the agreement, says that the PA and the World Bank last week reached an agreement by which they will bypass PECNDAR and deliver international aid funds directly to the PA's economic ministries, mainly the Finance Ministry headed by Muhammad al-Nashashibi.

The various PA offices competed for the funds, and the decision that they be transferred through al-Nashashibi's office constitutes a blow to Nabil Sha'th, head of the

Planning and International Cooperation Ministry, and to Abu-'Ala', head of the Ministry of Economy. Al-Nashashibi is considered 'Arafat's right-hand man on financial issues. This decision ensures that 'Arafat will be in full control of the distribution of the funds and provides the most benefits and political gains in the domestic Palestinian arena.

Peace Watch further says that the Holst Foundation has not been operating since June, and that money recently donated to this fund has not been transferred to the PA. As a result, the PA did not pay its workers their full salary in June and July, giving them only advance pay from funds that had not come through the Holst Foundation.

Algeria**UN Observer Mission Holds Talks With Officials***LD1309142295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the Presidency today announced that a UN assessment mission led by the director of the electoral aid department has been in Algeria since Saturday.

The UN mission, which is expected to end its task today, held a series of talks with a delegation led by Mihoub Mihoubi, the diplomatic adviser and Presidency spokesman, and by the head of the subcommittee of international observers. This mission came as a positive response of UN Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali to President Liamine Zeroual's message in which he called on the United Nations to send UN observers to monitor the process of the presidential elections.

The source added that the UN delegation was received successively by: Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour, Communications Minister Lamine Bechichi, and Justice Minister Mohamed Adami. The talks focussed on the measures which were taken in all spheres to ensure appropriate conditions for running the first multiparty presidential elections in Algeria.

The UN delegation also held thorough talks with the officials in charge of election services at the levels of Ministry of Interior or the province or Belouazed municipal. [sentence as heard]

The director of the UN electoral aid department also met a number of representatives of political parties and organizations and some of the presidential elections candidates.

HAMAS' Nahnah on Election Preparations*MM1309125895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 13 Sep 95 p 4*

[Interview with Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Algerian Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, by Salah Jamil in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Jamil] How are your preparations for the presidential elections proceeding, especially with regard to collecting the signatures?

[Nahnah] As is known, the decision to participate and run in the presidential elections was taken following extensive consultations with the various groups of Algerian society and inside our movement's institutions. The decision was in line with the movement's political line espousing the principle of participating in the

elections and pursuing the policy of peaceful change based on democratic and electoral foundations.

All these efforts and factors caused the process of collecting the signatures to proceed naturally and normally. We have made great strides despite security and administrative obstacles.

[Jamil] What are the main features of your election program?

[Nahnah] Our election program, which we will announce in the coming days, aims at:

- achieving political and security relaxation in the framework of national reconciliation and expanding the circle of dialogue and the base of government in order to extricate the country from the cycle of violence and daily confrontations;

- establishing a modern state that guarantees public freedoms, embodies pluralism, and guarantees the principle of equal opportunities among the Algerian people in order to lift injustice from citizens;

- improving social conditions and providing equal opportunities for young people, intellectuals, experts, researchers, and other various groups, women and men, inside and outside the country;

- moving responsibly and gradually toward the market economy in the framework of respecting the Algerian people's social and cultural characteristics;

- opening up to world changes and keeping pace with developments in the new world order within the framework of coexistence, nationally and internationally.

[Jamil] If you are elected, would you criticize opposition parties, especially the "national covenant" group, for boycotting the elections, or would you seek to turn over a new leaf with them?

[Nahnah] The objective of changing the regime through the presidential elections is to rid ourselves of the complex of settling historic scores and to transcend political maneuvers and the psychological and legal obstacles preventing us from achieving national reconciliation. Thus the elected president has to deal with everyone on the basis of giving precedence to the country's higher interests.

On that basis we believe that the presidential elections are a step designed to eliminate the psychological, social, and intellectual effects and to reopen the door to reconciliation, development, and progress. Besides, the elected president will be obliged — both psychologically and legally — to keep the door of tolerance wide open in order to avert further hatred.

However, we criticize some parties for trying by every possible means to deny the people their right to perform their electoral duty. Our movement believes that voting is a right and duty for citizens. We regard as reckless any action designed to prevent citizens from making their choice freely, whether this action is committed by the regime, some of whose circles are working to perpetuate the one-party mentality, or by some politicians accustomed to a certain method in political dealings and who have hence been unable to interact with the new methods.

[Jamil] There has been a marked escalation in violence operations since the election date was announced. Have you sensed that the government has taken additional measures to deal with these incidents, especially with regard to the candidates' security?

[Nahnah] It is politically wrong to link the political and security aspect with the elections, because current conditions are so severe and we cannot imagine any worse stalemate than the present one. It is said: "Full strength is the beginning of weakness." And also "once a crisis worsens, it means that a solution is on the way." Besides, who said that postponing or suppressing the elections would improve the situation, unless those saying that are the ones behind the escalation?

Furthermore, the present political and security situation is unstable. Sometimes it moves toward escalation, at other times toward calm, and so on. And this differs from one area to another. Thus one cannot decide to hold or not to hold the elections on the basis of this situation, especially if we know that the cause and crux of the crisis we are experiencing is in the [lack of] legitimacy as regards state institutions.

We are working to restore this legitimacy, which is the basis of democracy, to enable the elected president to continue efforts in the framework of the dialogue endeavors and reconciliation and accord plans, with the participation of all influential political parties. And to propose the most suitable and mature solutions to the crisis with the people's support. Because we believe that with the existence of legitimacy many of the justifications for violence would disappear and many suspect practices would be exposed.

The solution lies in expanding the base of government and changing the highest position in the regime peacefully. Like other peoples, the Algerian people are yearning for change in accordance with the rules of coexistence and the participation of Arab intellectuals in making the future, which is surrounded by the threats of cultural pollution and repeated defeats, which God forbid.

[Jamil] You criticized the "national covenant" group for holding meetings outside Algeria on the grounds that this was an attempt to internationalize the crisis. The group is now saying that by inviting observers to monitor the elections the government too is trying to internationalize the crisis. In your opinion, is the opposition not in the right?

[Nahnah] We said before that one of the causes of the Algerian crisis is mistrust. The decision to invite international observers is an acknowledgment by the government that there is no trust between it and the opposition, the people, and the international community. This is why we requested that measure to ensure a nonrepetition of the 1991 experience and to enable the Algerian people to exercise their right to choose their leaders. Because the decision is theirs and it is they who are suffering both permanently and directly from the complications and interactions of the crisis. Thus their participation in securing a solution is a necessity dictated by the reality and the failure of some politicians to achieve a political solution.

The people's participation is the ideal reply to anyone appointing himself a custodian of the people's will.

Besides, the insistence on enforcing or rejecting the Rome covenant does not exempt Algeria from the necessity to restore trust and reassure those who are going to take part in the elections, that is, both candidates and voters.

[Jamil] Many people believe that only a small number of candidates have national weight. Do you expect new candidates to be announced to change this impression?

[Nahnah] The real candidacy will be announced after collecting the signatures. As for what is happening now, it is merely a process of introducing some Algerian figures. Algeria is witnessing the first presidential, pluralist elections in the Arab world. It does not have well-established political traditions in this domain. Nevertheless, we expect the main tendencies, that is secular, nationalist, and Islamic tendencies, to be represented. We believe that anyone who manages to collect at least 75,000 signatures in 25 provinces enjoys people's initial support and has considerable representation weight in the national territory.

[Jamil] In the same context, do you expect President Liamine Zeroual to run for president, and how would you receive such a decision?

[Nahnah] We have decided to participate, and we believe that Algeria is approaching all kind of celebrations. The Constitution and the election law allow any Algerian citizen who meets the conditions to run for the

elections. There are numerous circumstances and criteria which indicate that it is preferable for President Liamine Zeroual not to run for president.

Security Services Eliminate 24 'Terrorists'

LD1309193095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued today by the security services has said that the security forces had eliminated 24 terrorists during a number of search operations carried out by the security forces in Skikda, Tizi Ouzou, Bouira, and Sidi Bel Abbes. The security men had also recovered a quantity of Kalashnikov rifles and shotguns.

Egypt

U.S. Ambassador Criticized Over Business Meeting

NC1309151695 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 11 Sep 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker's cancellation of a scheduled meeting with the Egyptian Businessmen's Association on 7 September has important political connotations, particularly as it came on the heels of a speech in which he sharply criticized the plight of the economy and investment in Egypt! In a speech before the Egyptian-U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Walker stressed that the Egyptian bureaucracy obstructs U.S. investment. He mentioned that a certain company spent two years attempting to invest \$10 million in a new factory but a single department in one of the ministries obstructed the project(!). He added that U.S. companies need 58 days to get their goods cleared through customs.

These remarks have created resentment within Egyptian Government circles. The U.S. ambassador was reportedly summoned to an official meeting at which a high-ranking official informed him that the government is dissatisfied with these remarks and asked him to curtail them. The ambassador's remarks have affected the way the Egyptian Businessmen's Association reacted to the ambassador's decision to cancel his meeting with its members. The ambassador's request to meet with the association's chairman, Sa'id al-Tawil, and the association's secretary general, Tahir al-Sharif, was turned down.

Until the writing of these lines, the Egyptian Investment Organization has not submitted a practical or press reply to the ambassador's remarks. It has neither denied nor confirmed his remarks, thus adding credibility to them in the eyes of some businessmen, who are well aware of the difficulties being placed before Egyptian and foreign investors.

The U.S. ambassador said that despite all these difficulties, U.S. companies have invested over \$1 billion in Egypt and helped create 250,000 jobs. U.S. companies expect investment in Egypt to be made easier in the future.

Delegation Reaches Compromise on Beijing Document

NC1409080995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beijing, 14 Sep (MENA)—Egypt expressed reservations about one of the paragraphs of the final draft document of the Fourth World Women's Conference, which will end in Beijing on 15 September. Egypt and the other delegations then managed to arrive at a reconciliatory formula regarding that paragraph in harmony with the Islamic shari'ah and values.

In a statement before the conference's main committee, Ambassador Layla 'Amarah, member of the official Egyptian delegation, said she wanted to go on record that the Egyptian delegation understands the paragraphs on inheritance rights in Beijing's Program of Action, especially Paragraph 274-D, to fully respect the inheritance rules established by the Islamic shari'ah and the law and the constitution.

The Egyptian delegation asked that the statement be included in the conference's report.

Ambassador Layla 'Amarah told MENA that the plenary committee reached a consensus and approved the text of Paragraph 274-D on inheritance: Removing the injustice and obstacles faced by children regarding inheritance so that all children can enjoy their rights without discrimination. This is achieved by a host of measures, including, when necessary, making and enforcing laws that ensure children equal right to succession and equal right to inherit, irrespective of the child's sex.

Ambassador 'Amarah said the committee approved this reconciliatory formula after intensive consultations that began during preparations for the conference and continued until dawn today, a few hours before the end of the conference.

She said the new formula satisfies the Arab and Islamic countries because it states that there is equality only in the right of the child to inherit, not in the amount to be inherited — it talks about equal right, not equal value. She said the phrase "when necessary" was introduced to the text, making it unbinding on states. [passage omitted]

Japanese Prime Minister Satisfied With Relations

NC1309210795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2030 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has expressed satisfaction with the strength of Egyptian—Japanese relations in the political, economic, and cultural domains. He affirmed that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Japan in March this year laid the foundation for stronger bilateral relations.

In a statement to be published in the 14 September issue of AL-AHRAM, Murayama said Japan has played a positive and constant role in the peace process in the Middle East through its support for the peace process, its participation in the multilateral talks, and its aid to the Palestinians.

Murayama said Japan will increase the scope of its contributions by offering expertise, sending observers to the Palestinian elections, and participating in the UN Disengagement Observers Force.

Japanese Official Discusses Ties, Peace Process

NC1409084495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0635 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tokyo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Yohei Kono, Japanese deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has emphasized that relations between Japan and Egypt are developing well and that this is due to agreement on the two countries' views. In an exclusive statement to MENA, he noted President Husni Mubarak's visit to Japan in March last year and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit in January 1993, his third visit to Japan, and pointed to his two visits to Egypt last year.

Kono pointed out that political dialogue between Egypt and Japan is deep and that both countries are cooperating in enhancing the peace process in the Middle East, particularly with the multilateral negotiations and foreign aid to the Palestinians. He noted that this cooperation will certainly help promote the peace process in the Middle East in general.

Discussing economic cooperation between Japan and Egypt, Kono stressed that his country greatly appreciates the Egyptian Government's efforts to bring about economic reforms and its efforts to enhance the market economy, noting that Japan is doing all it can to boost these efforts. He voiced his country's hope to expand and strengthen trade and economic relations between the two countries. He said that Egypt is considered to be the country that benefits most from Japanese aid, particularly in the past few years. He said that Japan's

aid to Egypt is increasing and that Egypt is considered to be the fourth largest recipient of Japanese aid in the world and the most cooperative country in the Middle East with Japan in the sphere of technology. He asserted that the Japanese Government seeks to continue to strengthen economic cooperation with Egypt. He noted that Egypt is currently working to promote its economic reform program and that Japan is eager to support these efforts and has sent senior advisers to help Egypt in its efforts. He added that this technical aid represents but one aspect of economic cooperation between the two countries.

On the occasion of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's visit to Egypt, which begins today, Kono underlined that there is an increasing trend in Japan's private and public sectors to promote economic relations with Egypt. He noted that last year his country offered 8.4 billion yen [words indistinct]. He noted that the fact President Mubarak was accompanied by a number of businessmen during his latest visit to Japan was an important factor in encouraging the economic exchange between the Japanese and Egyptian private sectors. [passage omitted]

Discussing the peace process in the Middle East and Japan's role in boosting it, Kono said the peace process that began in the fall of 1991 has achieved great success, especially the signing of the historic agreement between the PLO and Israel in September 1993 and the Peace Treaty between Jordan and Israel in October last year. He said the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are proceeding seriously to expand the scope of Palestinian self-rule and to hold elections for the National Council. He noted that Israel and Syria are negotiating over Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and security measures. He expressed his country's readiness to offer effective aid to the Palestinians and back the elections for the Palestinian National Council by offering material aid and observers.

Regarding the negotiations between Syria and Israel and Japan's role in advancing them, Kono said his country is encouraging leaders in both countries to exert further efforts to achieve progress in the negotiations. He said that Japan has decided to participate in the UN peacekeeping force in the Golan, noting that the Japanese force will begin its task there in February next year to offer positive and effective help to continue the negotiations between Syria and Israel.

Cairo Reportedly Rejects Iraqi Defector's Request
NC1309154695 *Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic*
11 Sep 95 p 12

[Report by Hamdi al-Husayni]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt has turned down a request by defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, the former Iraqi industry minister, to visit Cairo as part of a tour of Arab countries to garner support from Iraqi opposition abroad.

Egypt rejected this request to encourage the Iraqi Government to continue to release hundreds of Egyptians imprisoned in Iraq on various charges. A large number of Egyptians have already been released. Iraq has promised to continue to gradually release all prisoners in view of Egypt's recent stance rejecting any meddling in Iraq's internal affairs, especially after King Husayn's frank call for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime even at the hands of foreign powers.

Meanwhile, Egypt continues to view the defection of General Husayn Kamil with suspicion, given that he is greatly responsible for placing Iraq in the current impasse. Egypt also believes that he is not qualified to lead the Iraqi opposition abroad.

Israeli Ambassador Comments on POW Killings

NC1309190995 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1755 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan has said the killings of Egyptian prisoners in the 1956 and 1967 wars were individual, not state or government, crimes.

In an interview with the AL-MUSAWWAR weekly to be published on 15 September, he added that there were no instructions to soldiers from military leaders or from the defense minister to kill prisoners.

He noted: We denounce such acts. They do not represent what generally happen in these wars; they were the exception and were committed by individuals. They did not represent the policy of the government, the Defense Ministry, or the supreme leadership.

Sultan said that after the publication of reports on the case, the Israeli Government asked its legal adviser to discuss the issue. The legal adviser, he added, announced that the killing of Egyptian prisoners by Israeli soldiers was a war crime.

The ambassador said the Israeli Government cannot launch an investigation because the trial of those responsible is not possible as 20 years have passed since the crime was committed. Under Israeli law, he added,

the crime is subject to the statute of limitations after the passage of 20 years.

He denied reports that he took part in the killing of prisoners in 1956, because he was a 17-year-old student at the time. During the 1967 war, he said, he was an administrative accountant. He added that he was born in Egypt but left at the age of 10.

Sudanese Protests Seen Linked to Attack on Mubarak

NC1409062095 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic* 0335 GMT 14 Sep 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Africa's Condemnation and Sudan's Demonstrations," AL-AHRAM says: It is no coincidence that the demonstrations recently sweeping several Sudanese cities follow a unanimous OAU condemnation of the Sudanese regime for its involvement in the sinful attack against President Mubarak in Addis Ababa. The paper adds: The Sudanese people, especially the youths and the educated, have realized that their country's regime was involved, up to its ears, in the heinous attempt on the life of the president of Egypt, a country dear to every Sudanese person.

The paper ends its editorial by saying: We in Egypt did not and will not interfere in the affairs of any fraternal country, but the situation dictates that we advise the regime in Sudan to abandon its support for terrorism, to hand over to Ethiopia the three terrorists who fled to Sudan after the failed attempt in Addis Ababa, to give up claims that it speaks in the name of Islam, and to use its energies to exploit the tremendous resources of Sudan to serve the Sudanese people. We say this before the Sudanese people, in their entirety and of their own free will, rise up.

Sudan's 'Terrorist Policy' Seen To Ruin Economy, Life

NC1309141495 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic* 1140 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "The Sudanese People Have Passed Judgment on Their Tyrannical Rulers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese people's anger has intensified against the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime and its sponsorship of terrorism. Life came to a standstill in Khartoum yesterday when massive demonstrations again erupted, denouncing the Sudanese rulers' terrorist policy which has ruined the country's economy and rendered life impossible for the fraternal Sudanese

people. Tens of thousands of students from all Sudanese universities, joined by thousands of other citizens, took part in demonstrations that swept through the streets of Khartoum. They attacked al-Turabi's usual haunts, demanding the overthrow of the regime and the terrorist policies of the National Islamic Front [NIF].

After the attack on al-Turabi's headquarters, the demonstrations turned into clashes that claimed the lives of two of Sudan's sons. Thirty other demonstrators were injured.

Also yesterday, a statement was issued in London by the Sudanese opposition that declared a popular uprising against the NIF's regime is sweeping through the country. The opposition urged the Armed Forces and the police to join the Sudanese people's uprising to topple the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime and restore democracy and the rule of law.

It is clear that the fraternal Sudanese people have lost patience with the al-Bashir regime's terrorist and oppressive methods. The country's jails are full of people who dared to speak their minds or demanded the overthrow of the despotic government.

It is also clear that this escalating, spreading uprising by the various segments of the Sudanese public is the beginning of the end of al-Bashir's regime. Before long the Sudanese people will have toppled this regime and restored democratic, lawful government.

The demonstrations and the general deterioration of the situation in Sudan followed a statement issued by the OAU Central Apparatus for Conflict Resolution about the al-Turabi regime's involvement in the evil assassination attempt against Husni Mubarak, Egypt's symbol and president.

According to reports, the meeting of the OAU Central Apparatus for Conflict Resolution actually turned into a public trial of the Sudanese regime. The statement issued by the meeting was an open African call to pursue Khartoum's terrorists who, at any rate, will not escape the Sudanese people's severe punishment. It is a punishment that they richly deserve because of their crimes against the Sudanese people, other Arab countries, and indeed against the people of the whole world who today are increasingly inclined to settle their disputes peacefully.

What can al-Bashir, al-Turabi, and their henchmen say after the statement condemned them and affirmed their involvement in the vile attempt on President Mubarak's life?

The representatives of 30 African countries have urged Khartoum's authorities to hand over the three terrorists

whom they smuggled into Sudan and sheltered after the attack. The African representatives also urged the Sudanese regime to stop helping and giving refuge to terrorists.

As usual, the Sudanese regime has tried to shirk responsibility by uttering lies. The Sudanese Foreign Ministry issued an emotional statement attacking the Addis Ababa resolutions that had been issued by the foreign ministers attending the meeting of the OAU Central Apparatus for Conflict Resolution. In this statement Sudan retracted its earlier confession that the three fugitive assassination suspects were on its territory, alleging that they are in Ethiopia and that Ethiopia itself was behind the conspiracy against President Mubarak.

The grave events in Sudan prove that the Sudanese people, as we expected, have spoken their word and passed their judgment that this regime, which has lost its sanity and all sense of logic, must be overthrown. For several years it has conspired against the security and stability of Egypt which has consistently stood by the fraternal Sudanese people who have been afflicted by this misguided ruling clique which seized power and exploited it for the purpose of repression and terrorism with total disregard for the interests of the Sudanese people.

Two People Killed in Robbery in al-Minya

NC1309132895 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1242 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Two citizens were killed and one was wounded this morning when unidentified people fired random shots after robbing a jewelry shop in the city of Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate, Upper Egypt, a responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said.

The source added that unidentified people raided Ra'uf's jewelry shop in Mallawi, stole a small quantity of gold ornaments, and fired shots randomly. As a result, the son of shopkeeper 'Imad Ra'uf 'Ayyad and citizen Sharif Shawqi Najib were killed and citizen 'Atif Ibrahim 'Ayyad was injured and taken to hospital.

Al-Minya security and search agency officials went to the scene and the police are working to arrest the culprits.

Libya

Lockerbie Sanctions Said Forcing Expulsions

MS1309105695 London THE GUARDIAN in English
13 Sep 95 p 10

[Report by Kathy Evans: "Libya Steps Up Worker Expulsions"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tens of thousands of Egyptians and Sudanese have joined the growing exodus of Palestinian workers from Libya following Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's decision to expel all foreign Arab workers.

There are about 500,000 Egyptians in Libya, and 1.5 million Sudanese, many of whom have lived there for decades.

Libyan exile sources in London said that foreign Arab workers were being picked up in the street by the revolutionary militia and assembled for deportation.

Some were being secretly transported in shipping containers. Most were leaving penniless, unable to collect their wages before expulsion.

The governments in Cairo and Khartoum have been silent on the moves. Both are much poorer than Libya and rely on cash sent home by their workers to ease poverty.

Arab officials hope that the expulsions are just another of the colonel's irrational decisions and will be rescinded in a few weeks.

Two hundred Palestinians were deported yesterday.

The deportations have left Libya's 30,000 Palestinians in a legal limbo. Forty five were stranded at the Egyptian border, prevented from entering Gaza by the Israeli guards who control the borders of the new Palestinian entity.

Lebanon is finding the Libyan expulsions a good opportunity to rid itself of Lebanese Palestinians living overseas by banning them from returning.

Col al-Qadhafi has claimed that the expulsions will rid the country of illegal workers and provide more employment for Libyans.

Three years of sanctions over the Lockerbie case has brought the Libyan economy virtually to its knees.

About 30 per cent of Libyans are unemployed, and civil servants, including teachers and the police, are paid only every three months.

Questions are being asked about how Libya's oil money is being spent by Col al-Qadhafi and his 24-year-

old son, Sayf-al-Islam, who is playing a leading role in managing the economy.

Most Libyans see the expulsions as more of a symptom of Col al-Qadhafi's frustration with his Arab allies and their failure to get the sanctions lifted.

Izz-al-Din Ghadamisi, a former Libyan ambassador now exiled in London said: "Al-Qadhafi's government is really hurting now because of the Lockerbie sanctions. Everything, politically and economically, is in a mess, and Arab leaders have failed him completely. This is the way he wants to step up the pressure on them."

Col al-Qadhafi expressed concern in a recent speech that foreign Arab fundamentalists were attempting to radicalise Libyan Muslims.

But opposition sources rejected such an explanation.

A member Of Libya's leading Islamic group, the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, said: "He is trying to make a case that he is the only alternative to Islamic fundamentalists in Libya."

"The truth is that no one, not the Islamic militants, or the democrats, or the seculars, want al-Qadhafi."

Foreign Media Assailed for 'Storm' Over Expulsions

LD1309214095 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1920 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 13 Sep (JANA) — The General Directorate of External Information and International Cooperation at the General People's Bureau for Information and Mass Mobilization has remarked on reports circulated by some media channels, as follows:

The storm fabricated by the media over the past two weeks of this month claiming that Libya has decided to expel Arab and foreign workers from its territory, or more precisely that Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi has decided to expel Arabs ... and so on ... this storm does not contain a single convincing point. On the contrary, it leaves doubts, and raises fears and fundamental questions; namely, what is the reason for this kind of stance? What is the reason for this persistent clutching at straws and avoiding essential facts?

Because media channels, whether television, radio, or newspapers, devote broadcasting time and newspaper columns to practising deliberate disinformation, when they discuss trivial issues and neglect the blatantly obvious essential facts, it is imperative to say:

1. The steps to dispense with foreign workers were taken in implementation of the resolutions of people's congresses during their successive sessions since 1984

on dispensing with foreign workers and replacing them with Libyans;

2. The Great Jamahiriya was forced to take some steps due to the discovery of diseases and serious illnesses among the workers from abroad, such as the immune deficiency virus, or AIDS in the language of the Anglophones and SIDA in the language of the Francophones. Furthermore, some of the workers had contracted Ebola, the identification of which was announced at the beginning of this year. The authorities concerned with world health and combating diseases have not yet found a cure to eradicate it, which forced the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security to issue an open warning, published in Libyan Arab newspapers, against the appointment of foreign workers — some of whom have been diagnosed as carriers of the viruses of the abovementioned diseases — by the private and public sectors, without exception.

3. A number of measures of this kind were taken in order to curb the number of those who are in or have entered the country illegally. This matter has been the subject of much debate, however.

On one hand, saying Libya is the land of all Arabs certainly does not mean that anyone can smuggle himself in without proper procedures and without legal papers.

On the other hand, even a Libyan Arab national has, when leaving or reentering the Great Jamahiriya, to use official border posts.

Thus, one may find in the pronouncements of President Hosni Mubarak at his meeting with Egyptian university teachers and students last month — when he said: "The problem facing the Egyptian workforce in Libya is different... actually the Libyans are treating them as well as they can... people in the streets treat them very well" — the best answer on how well the Egyptian workforce is being treated in the Great Jamahiriya. We can also refer to Egyptian Consul Midhat Shukri Sha'ir's statement to the London-based Arabic papers that "it is not acceptable that Egyptians should enter Libya without work contracts and residency permits," adding that Libya has taken security measure and Egypt respects its decision.

4. Is it not strange for the aforementioned media to link the resolutions of the people's congresses concerning the replacement of the foreign workforce by Libyan workers to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi's call to all Arab countries, which he made during the celebrations of the 26th anniversary of the Fatih revolution, to send all the Palestinians residing therein to the West Bank in order to expose the criminal scheme and ex-

pose the illusion and expose the lie? Why do those media organs insist on overlooking the paragraph in that speech in which he said: "You must bear with your Arab brethren who are around you ... and also the Africans." Why did they omit to mention the important concluding paragraph in which he said: "Without the Arabs you cannot build Libya... Your Arab brethren must join you in building it. You should have the right here along side your Arab brethren ... Whoever wants the Nile should go to it and whoever wants the oil should come to it."

Was that not deliberate negligence, or could it be that the brilliant light on our side has overwhelmed those working in the information media and prevented them from seeing the truth?

Statement on U.S. Policy Toward Deportations

LD1309143795 Tripoli JANA in English
1421 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Sep. 13, JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY — An authorised source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity made the following statement:

News reports have perpetuated the statement by the spokesman of the American State Department Nicolas Burns on the return of Palestinians from the Great Jamahiriya to their land. At a time when we are surprised at this flagrant and indecent interference by the American State Department vis-a-vis the position of an independent, sovereign state towards this position which had been welcomed by the sons of the Palestinian nation present on the Libyan land... we wish to reveal to the American Government the stark contrast in its policies. At a time when it claims that it is calling for giving the Palestinians the right of free choice to live anywhere they like it acts tirelessly to support the Israeli position which rejects the return of the Palestinians to their land.

The policy of double standards applied the United States and American [word indistinct] towards the Palestinian cause and towards the return of Palestinians to their land is exposed, as it blesses, in fact contributes materially and morally towards the flow Jewish immigrant flows from Eastern Europe and from all the world to occupied Palestine to consolidate the Israeli occupation. At the same time it denies the free choice to the Palestinian people to return to their homes and land.

An authorised source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity has confirmed that the statement by the American State Department's spokesman expresses in reality the concern of his government for the return of Palestinians to their land and

consolidating their foothold there and that their return will lead to the exposition of the actions of the United States and its interference to support the Israeli enemy and assert the violation of Palestine and the expulsion of its people around the various corners of the world and that their return to their land will expose the falsehood of Oslo, Gaza, Jericho and Washington and the forsaking of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and will deal a blow to all American claims which attempt to describe the accords of treason and submission as accords for the liberation of the land and the enhancement of rights. This historical return will expose the reality of the American position, which wants the Palestinian people to live expelled in the diaspora without homes and land.

JANA Editor Comments Negatively on 'Arafat, PA
LD1209233695 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab affairs editor at the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY [JANA] has commented on the statement made by the Palestinian ambassador in Jordan today, 12 September 1994, in which he announced that the Palestinian Authority [PA] has no jurisdiction over the return of the Palestinian people to Palestinian territories.

Such a statement has reaffirmed a number of facts. They are the following:

Firstly: The Palestinian Authority, which emerged following the Gaza-Jericho agreement, signed in accordance with the principle of trading land for peace, has not achieved what Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had claimed, i.e. the liberation of lands, the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state.

Secondly: The exposition of the capitulatory line adopted by Abu-'Ammar and his followers: It has become clear that such an authority is impotent one; it cannot take sovereign decisions on the present and the future of the Palestinian people.

Thirdly: The Gaza-Jericho agreement is merely to silence the Palestinian guns and to contain the intifadah of the courageous Palestinian people. It also amounts to a negligent act which has forsaken the line taken by the Palestinian struggle by allowing the Israelis to attain their aims by consecrating their occupation of Arab land and impose capitulation on Arabs in a bid to kill off the Palestinian revolution and abort the popular intifadah which had shaken the land under the feet of the forces of occupation and weakened the enemy militarily and politically through daily protest and confrontation.

[Fourthly] The violation of the national charter of the Palestinian people, which rejects capitulation to and negotiation with the Israeli enemy — the usurper of the land of Palestine — by ending the state of war with the Israelis.

Thus, it has been established that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is an imposed and an abhorrent agreement, for it has consecrated the Israeli occupation which Arabs have been fighting against for decades and has cast legitimacy on the usurpation of Arab land in addition to the fact that it is a negligent act forsaking the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to its land, to its right of return and to the establishment of its state.

Despite all capitulatory steps taken by 'Arafat and his companions by making the Palestinian authorities in Gaza and Jericho a compliant tool which protects the security of the Israeli enemy, the voluntarily return of the sons of the Palestinian people to the land of Palestine will end a chapter in the history of their suffering and plight in the diaspora and will constitute a right and a historical step to consecrate the Palestinian determination to return to their historical roots in the land of Palestine in order to continue the struggle against the Israeli enemy.

16 Sep Decreed 'Day of National Mourning'

LD1309211295 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The General People's Committee [GPC] has issued decision number 222 for the year 1424 after the birth of Muhammad making the 16th of al-Fatih [September] a day of national mourning in the Great Jamahiriya to remember the injustice suffered by the sons of the Libyan Arab people following the Italian invasion and the execution of martyr 'Umar al-Mukhtar.

The decision stipulated, furthermore, that all means of private and public transport, whether entering or leaving the great Jamahiriya, must come to a halt between 1200 and 1205 hours. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

President Receives Iraqi Finance Minister

LD1409081795 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic
2200 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On behalf of His Excellency the president, Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker this morning received Iraqi Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, who carried a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to His

Excellency Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan II Receives Iraqi Envoy

LD1309141895 Rabat MAP in English
1321 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Sept 13 (MAP) — Iraq is keen on constantly informing King Hassan II on the latest developments in Iraq and in the region, said Iraqi Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn.

In an exclusive interview carried Tuesday [12 September] by Moroccan daily ANOUAL, the Iraqi presidential envoy who was received Monday by King Hassan II, said the sovereign follows closely the situation in Iraq and is for lifting the UN embargo imposed on Baghdad since 1990.

After the defection to Jordan of the ex-Iraqi minister of military industry, Gen. Husayn Kamal, Iraqi authorities deemed it necessary to inform the sovereign on the genuine circumstances of this affair and its incidence on the Arab and regional scenes, the Iraqi finance minister said.

The Iraqi people highly appreciates the noble stances of King Hassan II, Ahmad Husayn said noting that Baghdad seeks to inform constantly the Moroccan monarch on the evolution of the stand of the UN Security Council in its relations with Iraq.

The Security Council decided Sept. 8 to maintain the sanctions against Baghdad accused of having concealed its biological arms program. The Security Council says the conditions necessary for lifting or modifying the sanctions have not yet been gathered.

Another Iraqi envoy, Foreign Minister Sa'id al-Sahhaf, ensured the sovereign last July 24 of Iraq's commitment to abide scrupulously by the UN resolutions.

Sudan

Al-Turabi Comments on National Elections

LD1409090195 Paris Radio France International
in French 0630 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Calm has been restored in Khartoum since 13 September, after two days of riots in which two people were killed and several injured, according to the authorities.

These violent demonstrations in the streets of Khartoum and Port Sudan, are the most serious incidents in the country since General al-Bashir assumed power in 1989. In order to avoid fresh demonstrations, the capital

Khartoum has been placed under the control of anti-riot forces.

However, despite this upsurge of protest over the last few weeks, Hasan al-Turabi, the eminence grise of the Sudanese regime, believes that the junta in power is far from being threatened. (Maha Fayek) was able to interview Hasan al-Turabi on the telephone in Khartoum. He adds — and you are going to be able to hear for yourself — that free elections may take place in the country:

[Begin recording] [al-Turabi] People believe that the government is weak. The opposition has always said that there are movements, there are signs such as demonstrations by the opposition, and the government is going to fall in a week's time, in two weeks' time perhaps. It is always like that. [laughs] But [laughs] [words indistinct] with the order of the regime here because student unions everywhere, in all universities, are Islamic in this country. Students have behaved badly, destroyed cars. Unfortunately, it is a destructive movement, and the government had to react.

[Fayek] In the framework of an Islamic government such as yours, do you think that it is normal that there should be some opposition, or do you not tolerate the principle of opposition?

[Al-Turabi] But there is an opposition in the state parliament. Tomorrow we are going to have national elections for the presidency or for the general parliament of Sudan. Everyone will be free to be in the opposition or close to the government. [end recording]

Al-Turabi Gives Interview on Current Issues

BR1409080995 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET
in Norwegian 13 Sep 95 (Graenselost section) p 7

[Report on interview with Islamic National Front leader Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi by Peter Strandberg in Khartoum; date not given: "Sudan's Khomeyni"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum — Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi is regarded as the country's real ruler. He heads the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic National Front party.

It is he who pulls the strings where General Omar al-Bashir, who came to power in a coup in 1989, is concerned. He is considered to be the brains behind everything that happens in the country. Dr. al-Turabi received us in his private residence not far from the district where all the embassies are located and the international airport in Khartoum.

Divide And Rule

Officially Dr. al-Turabi, a trained lawyer who was educated in France and England, has no leadership position in the Islamic Republic of Sudan. He is a charming, charismatic man who is always ready to break out into disarming laughter.

"All the problems we have in Sudan are due to colonialism," he said. "The British governed us under the motto 'divide and rule.' The Christians in the south were kept separate from us in the north. Today we are seeing the consequences of this. Then foreign forces took over the leadership of these so-called rebels and used their influence over the press around the world," al-Turabi said, adding:

"However, today even the rebels speak Arabic. It is our language, and virtually all African languages have their origins in Arabic. For instance, parts of Uganda are an extension of Sudan, both culturally and religiously. Yet we are not persecuting Christians in Nubia or southern Sudan. This is not a religious or ethnic conflict," al-Turabi said.

Envy

Of the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Mubarak and the tense situation in the disputed border region of Halaib in northern Sudan, al-Turabi said with a smile:

"Egypt is just an old colonial power that has grown envious of the new Sudan and our rich natural resources. At the same time it is conscious of its own economic weakness, nothing more. The Egyptians themselves fixed the borders between us. Do they now want to change them?"

"The world accuses Sudan of exporting Muslim fundamentalism. That is laughable when everyone is busily exporting everything they can: satellites, films, nowadays everything reaches everywhere. Why should we not export what we can? However, as for accusing us of being terrorists, where is the terror? Are you not safe walking the streets of Khartoum?" al-Turabi asked, laughing loudly.

His Own Way

According to Dr. al-Turabi, the government's aim is to provide a third way moving away from both socialism and capitalism toward an Islamic governed by Islamic law, shari'ah, according to which alcohol and the debasement of women are prohibited, and where no banker is allowed to sit back and earn money on interest paid by poor people.

"The world has not yet seen an Islamic state. Iran is almost perfect, but whereas Iran was forced to fight its way through a bloody revolution and is being worked against by powerful forces in the world, we have managed to carry through our revolution peacefully and have had an easier road."

Costly Support

Dr. al-Turabi does not think that Sudan supported Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, as is frequently claimed.

"The people supported Iraq's struggle. However, the government told Iraq that we considered the invasion to be wrong and that the issue in question had to be resolved peacefully within the family (the Arab world). However, then the United States, which believes itself to be God, seized the opportunity to gain influence and use its weapons."

Nevertheless the economic consequences of the Gulf War have been tough for Sudan, al-Turabi admitted.

"Western Europe, the United States, and the rich Gulf states have stopped all trade with us and tried to force us to our knees. However, Sudan has grown as a result of being in this situation. Yes, I can even say that it was good for us to have to suffer this. Today we are an independent country and not beggars."

Africa's Future

Dr. al-Turabi sees an Islamic Sudan as a future bridge between North Africa, the Middle East, and black Africa.

"We will show the rest of Africa that there is no need to beg for economic aid, and that there clearly is a future for a continent that is today still suffering from the consequences of a colonialist heritage, with incorrectly drawn borders and economic exploitation."

Ethiopian Allegations, 'Conspiracies' Viewed

EA1409124595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Sep 95

[From the "Commentary on the News" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry yesterday issued an official statement in which it rejected the Ethiopian regime's allegations which aim to tarnish the name of Sudan, by all ways and means, and link it with the recent attempt to assassinate the Egyptian president in the Ethiopian capital. [passage omitted]

The strategy that the Ethiopian Government has recently begun to pursue concerning Sudan is one that is incompatible with the (?hypothesis) of the good neighborly relations which should bind neighbors. The desperate

attempts and continuing foreign pressure on Ethiopia to change its principled stance on the attempted assassination of the Egyptian president, and the falsification of the facts in the investigation which it has carried out, contradict the principle of self-respect and respect for the stance that it adopted through conviction and without dictation.

What is deplorable is that as a result of its recent conduct the Ethiopian regime has allowed itself to be used as a facade behind which conspiracies are hatched, that there is a mask which hides a face in which one can see all the features of conspiracy, to the extent that truth is distorted and conventions, traditions and charters are violated by the exploitation of the organ for the resolution of African disputes, which has dragged it into a conflict of which it is not a part.

However, we would like to draw attention to the very sensitive aspects of the issue of Sudan and Ethiopia, and highlight the fact that the Egyptian-Ethiopian coordination which has emerged over the attempted assassination of the Egyptian president is seen as important by other quarters, who will promote it by all means in order to achieve their ends, aims and goals. [as received]

This coordination will lead, or has actually led, to Nile Basin region states being dragged into a policy of polarization and axes, by creating tactical groupings that are likely to bring together some states' positions and impose a state of isolation or hostility on other states. [passage omitted]

We also highlight the fact that all parties concerned should not, in the unsuitable climate created by the attempted assassination of the Egyptian president, forget that there are many who actually benefit from this climate, and that this scenario is meant to distract these states from their basic concerns and drag them into marginal issues in order to create a state of general (?weakness) and affect the political, security and economic stability in these states.

In these circumstances, the government and people of Sudan are quite capable of facing up to such a conspiracy, because Sudan is a state that enjoys full sovereignty and its full rights in adopting the stances and decisions that it deems appropriate. We want the door to remain open for rational and objective dialogue between the three states and for this dialogue to adhere to firmly-established principles and known traditions which dictate the stances of states, respect the supreme interests of people and keep away from the claws of polarization and conflicts which are sponsored by the new world order and its tools. Success comes only from God.

Demonstrations Continue in Khartoum, Omdurman

Reserves Called In

NC1209142195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1330 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 12 Sep (MENA)—Thousands of Sudanese citizens and students resumed their demonstrations in Khartoum and Omdurman today for the fourth consecutive day. The demonstrators proceeded from a square in the capital's center to Khartoum University, shouting slogans demanding freedom and attacking the [National] Islamic Front and its leader Dr. Hasan al-Turabi.

Most main roads and major bridges have been closed to traffic, particularly al-Baladiyah street in Khartoum and Omdurman street. The security forces are deployed on all streets in Khartoum.

Marchers in Khartoum proceeded to the offices of the so-called World Popular Friendship Council, thinking the building housed Dr. al-Turabi's office. But the guards on the premises convinced them that al-Turabi was not inside the building, thus saving it from destruction.

The demonstrations calmed down a bit when the security forces used tear gas. The shots these forces fired failed to disperse the demonstrators who still jam roads in Khartoum.

The security forces tried to disperse the crowds by stopping cars and asking them to take the demonstrators wherever they wanted.

Our MENA correspondent toured the streets in Khartoum to inspect the situation. He reported that the security forces set up road blocks to stop traffic and control the crowd of thousands of citizens returning to their homes after a day's work.

The security forces called in the reserves to control the demonstrations, the biggest in Sudan since the salvation revolution in 1989.

The demonstrations involve thousands of students from the Sudan, al-Nilayn, and Khartoum universities and al-Ahliyah in Omdurman, in addition to secondary school students in Omdurman and thousands of citizens. The demonstrators are shouting hostile slogans against the Islamic Front and its loyalists.

Government Examines Report on Riots

EA1309214595 *Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1545 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Council of Ministers has affirmed the government's concern of freedom of expression with peaceful means for all citizens and political rights as the council, chaired by President al-Bashir, today reviewed a report of Brigadier PSC [Passed-Staff-College] Bakri Hasan Salih, the interior minister, on the riots and destructive actions in Khartoum during the past two days instigated by remnants of the leftists among students.

The council assured of open and frank discussion and dialogue at the universities and higher education institutions, advocating the revolution's program [and] policies to develop Sudan on all fronts.

The council directed that the public should be fully informed of the plots and conspiracies hatched against the Sudan. [passage omitted]

Police Maintaining 'Strong Presence'

AB1309173795 *London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] This week has begun with considerable trouble on the campus of the University of Khartoum. It all started on Saturday [9 September] as a small demonstration by a score of students about the detention of three of their colleagues, has developed into antigovernment protests. There have been clashes with police and between some students who support and oppose the government of General al-Bashir. It seems there has been more unrest between rival students today. Richard Lee asked our Khartoum correspondent, Alfred Taban, what the situation was on the campus.

[Begin recording] [Taban] I was there at the campus about two or three hours ago and I found the streets littered with stones and the two groups were facing each other on both sides of the street. They were armed with sticks and iron bars but they were not attacking themselves.

[Lee] And did the police intervene at any point?

[Taban] The police did not intervene but they were very very close nearby. The police is maintaining a very, very strong presence not only at the Khartoum University but also at other Universities in Khartoum.

[Lee] And what has the rest of Khartoum been like? Has it been calm today?

[Taban] Yes. It has been quieter. The only disturbances were at Khartoum University.

[Lee] And what have the authorities been doing to keep it calm?

[Taban] The police is maintaining a very high profile. They are posted at various points throughout the city not only uniformed police but also plain-clothes security personnel. You can easily see them in their pickups and other vehicles.

[Lee] Are they just maintaining a presence or they are actually searching people? Are they stopping people at all?

[Taban] The searches were conducted last night. I remember when I was going home from work in the evening I was stopped and my vehicle was thoroughly searched. I realized that they were searching all the vehicles that are coming into Khartoum and going out of Khartoum.

[Lee] And does it look like the authorities are once again firmly in control of Khartoum?

[Taban] Yes, I think they have come to manage to contain the situation because today's disturbances were a might less intense than the ones of yesterday and the day before. [end recording]

University Students Resume Protests

NC1409104795 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 14 Sep (MENA)—Khartoum University students renewed their demonstrations against the Sudanese Government this morning. Security forces and anti-riot police are using tear gas to disperse the students in the streets of the al-Daym area in Khartoum.

Islamist elements from the so-called al-Rahman Battalions, accompanied by Sudanese security forces, stormed the university's lecture hall and its southern buildings, which belong to the Engineering Department, and arrested one student. This provoked the students to leave the campus.

Meanwhile, informed sources stressed that the citizen who was killed yesterday, Fayiz Muhammad 'Ali, was a student at Khartoum University.

Former President Numayri Views Current Unrest
JN1309192695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1624 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with former President Ja'far Numayri, in Cairo, by George Nawfal, in Paris; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Numayri] The situation in Sudan is extremely bad. The masses have risen and denounced all the government's actions. Demonstrations occurred in major cities. These demonstrations are continuing and the government is using force to disperse them. The reserve forces, the so-called reserve police, opened fire at the Sudanese people and casualties were sustained.

Demonstrations occurred in other towns earlier in the week. Khartoum demonstrations were an extension of demonstrations elsewhere. Demonstrations occurred in 'Atbarah and before that in Wad Madani and al-Ubayyid. The people everywhere are organizing themselves and uniting, staging demonstrations. Whenever they meet any senior government officials, the people demonstrate their strong indignation at everything the authorities are doing in Khartoum toward the Sudanese people, and toward neighboring countries in Africa as well as brothers in Arab and Islamic countries.

[Nawfal] In view of your experience as a former president, will the current protest demonstrations in Khartoum and other Sudanese towns have an effect on the authorities?

[Numayri] Of course, they must have an effect. The effects are clear without these demonstrations. The authorities feel that they are collapsing. They are on their way to disappearing. They have felt this. The demonstrations are only an ultimatum [preceding word in English]. They are a final warning that this government is disappearing.

[Nawfal] Concerning your political activities, are you trying to coordinate with other Sudanese opposition parties to carry out a role in the future, for instance?

[Numayri] I am trying to coordinate with the Sudanese people at home and abroad. However, at home, political work is easy. In cities abroad, we are exiles and find difficulties in terms of observing security regulations pertaining to each country. Nevertheless, we find loopholes through which we carry out our activities. We tolerate blame sometimes but we believe that we have an effect which appears in the media and in legitimate action. The work is apparent because we are leading the internal activities from abroad through my May organization, which is continuing in underground leaderships at home — the various trades and professional

unions, which meet secretly and lead underground work at home.

[Nawfal] Mr. President: Do you have contacts with other opposition parties?

[Numayri] I have no (?contacts) with the opposition leaders, whom I believe are an extension of the regime there in Sudan. They, especially those in the sectarian opposition called the [word indistinct] grouping, do not differ from the regime. They are an extension of the regime, with which they constituted one leadership at one point in the past. However, they misused leadership, (?distorted) laws at home, and ran away. [words indistinct] this authority.

[Nawfal] Can you provide us with information or confirm that there appear to be differences between President al-Bashir and the al-Turabi men in the rule? Information says that al-Bashir tried to remove some personalities affiliated with al-Turabi from power and to bring in personalities said to be close to Ja'far Numayri?

[Numayri] At present, I rule that out. I know al-Turabi is in control of the Sudanese economy (?through) his sons and supporters in the National Islamic Front. Al-Bashir cannot do anything against al-Turabi at present. All that is being said is speculation, or an attempt to encourage al-Bashir to do something.

[Nawfal] Does this mean that al-Turabi currently has the upper hand in Sudan?

[Numayri] He is the one in control. Al-Bashir is just a follower to him.

[Nawfal] But it seems that in view of current events and the rumored differences with the al-Turabi group that al-Bashir held contacts recently with armed groups?

[Numayri] The contacts are with individuals affiliated with al-Turabi. However, they used to work in the dark. They are under the command of al-Turabi. Al-Bashir cannot do anything unless he is told to by al-Turabi. As I was entering the office, I heard that al-Bashir has reinstated Dr. al-Nafi', the chief security official whom he removed last week. I believe that he is one of those wanted for investigation in Ethiopia after the attempt on the life of President Mubarak. He was in charge of security and supervised the operation from Khartoum. He cannot [words indistinct] without al-Turabi's orders.

[Nawfal] Mr. President: It was rumored that you intended to form a government in exile, but it seems that you have retracted. What prevents you from forming a government?

[Numayri] I have not retracted. In fact, this was in compliance with the Egyptian Government's laws. It

asked me to postpone this for now. However, the government has been formed and exists. We could not declare that because the security authorities in Egypt here prevented us from doing so. (?Because) I live in Egypt, I must comply with the security regulations here in Egypt.

[Nawfal] Thank you Mr. President.

Nationals Expelled From Libya Return

*AB1309194395 Paris AFP in English
1041 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 13 Sep (AFP) — Sudanese nationals expelled from Libya have started to arrive home in trucks provided by the Libyan government, a newspaper reported Wednesday [13 September]. Around 400 Sudanese travelled for three to four days in temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) to reach the town of Hamrat esh-Sheikh in Kordofan State of western Sudan.

"We crossed the desert in harsh climatic conditions...and suffered from a shortage of drinking water and food," one of the expelled Sudanese told the newspaper AL-RAI AL-AKHAR. Western diplomats say about 150,000 Sudanese nationals are believed to be working in Libya.

Arab nationals could previously enter Libya without a visa. Sudan and Libya are tied by agreements which allow freedom of movement, investment and trade between the two countries. But Libya has since early September been expelling all Arab nationals without working papers.

A Sudanese delegation has flown to Libya to help organize the repatriations, and President 'Umar al-Bashir ordered that the returnees be well-treated and offered free transportation for those in need. But border police are reported to be facing problems because many of those returning have no identity cards or other documents.

Tunisia

Iraqi Envoy Conveys Saddam Message to Ben Ali

*JN1309201595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1935 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 13 Sep (INA)—Iraqi Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, personal

envoy of President Saddam Husayn to his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, arrived here today.

The Iraqi finance minister told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tunis that he will convey an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The message, he said, concerns the latest development in the Arab arena, Iraq's relationship with the UN Security Council and the Special Commission, and bilateral ties.

Official Comments on Energy Ministers' Talks

*LD1309180695 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The proceedings of the Ministerial Council of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] in charge of energy and minerals opened in Tunis today at the ministerial level. Abdelwahab Kesraoui, director general of energy at the Ministry of Industry, talked about the council's main issues of interest:

[Begin Kesraoui recording] This meeting of the ministers of energy and minerals comes within the framework of a persistent move toward establishing a unified Maghreban market. As you know, the energy sector has great significance for the economy of all countries. Therefore, it is only natural that the interest of the Maghreban countries is directed toward utilizing all the opportunities for cooperation in this sphere. In particular, the aspects of integration among various components of the AMU are clear for everyone to see, and we hope that the role of energy and exchanges and co-operation in this sphere will assume a pioneering role in progressing toward reviving the Maghreban market. [end recording]

Oman

'Assassination Attempt' Linked to 'Arrest Campaign'

MM1409121195 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 13 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Suhayl Mash'ani: "Speculation Over Attempt To Assassinate Sultan Qabus; Gulf Leaders Concerned Over 'December Summit'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muscat, Doha, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Political circles in the Gulf pointed yesterday to the possibility that Sultan Qabus of Oman may have been subjected to an assassination attempt in the city of Salalah, where he is spending his annual vacation.

Diplomatic sources have said that the sultan is putting the final touches to a number of political and security decisions to be announced in November on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his assumption of power in the sultanate. The sources linked the Salalah accident to the arrest campaign that included beside the Islamists a number of tribesmen — which provoked anti-regime feelings among a number of tribes.

Gulf circles wondered about the way in which the Omani authorities announced the accident, in addition to their silence about the condition of the other ministers who were inside the sultan's car when the accident took place according to the official statement, and also the driver of the vehicle that hit Qabus' car from behind according to the government story.

Gulf leaders rushed to contact Sultan Qabus to assure themselves about his health.

Diplomats have stressed that Gulf leaders are concerned that the security situation in the sultanate might affect their meeting scheduled to be held in Muscat in December. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, 'Ajman Ruler Arrive; Congratulate Qabus

JN1309174695 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television
Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in the country at noon today on a short visit to the sultanate to congratulate His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God preserve him, on his escape from the accident involving his car on Monday night. His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab Al Sa'id, private representative of his majesty the sultan, led those who received the Egyptian president. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Humayd Bin-Rashid al-Nu'aymi, member of the United Arab Emirates Supreme Council and ruler of the Emirate of 'Ajman, and the accompanying delegation also arrived in the country at noon today on a visit to the sultanate to congratulate His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

King Husayn Arrives To Congratulate Qabus

JN1309204595 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In God's care, Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur arrived in Salalah this evening on a short visit to the sisterly Sultanate of Oman to congratulate His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman for escaping injury in a car accident, and to offer condolences to his majesty the sultan and the fraternal Omani people on the death of Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al- Zawawi, deputy prime minister for economic and financial affairs, in the car accident in which the sultan's motorcade was involved. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Leaves for Short Visits to Jordan, Oman

JN1309071595 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0615 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 13 Sep (WAKH) — The Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani left Qatar this morning on a short visit to Jordan at the invitation of King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that following his visit to Jordan, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani will pay a short visit to the Sultanate of Oman to congratulate Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id on his escape from a car accident he had recently.

Saudi Arabia

Japanese Minister on Investments, Loans to Iran

OW1309145795 Tokyo KYODO in English
1438 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Sept. 13 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama assured Saudi Arabia on Wednesday [13 September] that Tokyo will help promote Japanese investment in the oil-rich kingdom, a Japanese official said.

Murayama, who is on the first tour of the Middle East by a Japanese prime minister in two years, made the

promise in a meeting with Crown Prince Abdullah, who stressed the need to strengthen bilateral economic ties, the official said.

Japan ranks second after the United States in terms of investment in the kingdom but Japanese investment there concentrated on oil development.

The prince told Murayama that he expects Japan to promote the transfer of technology from Japan to Saudi Arabia while the premier replied that Japan will continue exchanges of engineers and students between the two countries, the official said.

At a lunch after the meeting, the prince asked Murayama to be cautious about resuming official loans to Iran, the official said.

"Will Japan cooperate with Iran through yen loans?" he was quoted as asking Murayama.

Murayama replied that Tokyo is carefully considering whether to resume official loans to Iran, the official said.

The prince's remarks about Iran came the day after King Fahd met Murayama and expressed strong anxiety about Iran over its military expansion.

Murayama made a fresh invitation for the prince to visit Japan. The prince said he expects to visit Japan in the near future.

Murayama is to leave for Egypt on Thursday on the second leg of his five-nation Middle East tour that takes him also to Syria, Israel and Jordan.

Referendum on Saddam's Nomination Set for 15 Oct

JN1309173195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 95

["Text" of decree issued on 13 September "setting Sunday, 15 October, as the date to hold the general referendum on the nomination of leader Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council chairman, to the post of president of the republic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The Republic of Iraq,

Republican Decree No. 282,

In view of the National Assembly's approval of the nomination of leader Saddam Husayn, RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, to the post of the president of the republic, and in accordance with Paragraph C, Article 57 of the Constitution, and Article 13 of Law No. 13 of 1995 which regulates the referendum procedures, we decree:

The general referendum on the nomination of leader Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman, to the post of the president of the republic shall be held on Sunday, 15 October 1995.

The chairman of the Higher Committee supervising the referendum shall implement this decree.

[Dated] Written in Baghdad on 18 Rabi' al-Thani 1416 hegira, corresponding to 13 September 1995

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

Referendum Said Expression of 'Self-Confidence'

JN1409095195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA) — A political writer says that the Iraqi command's decision to hold a popular referendum on the position of president expresses great self-confidence and a determination to continue building a democratic and prosperous Iraq in spite of the embargo and the threats of aggression.

In an article in *BABIL* today, Nuri al-Marsumi says that this step is consistent within the march of the 17-30 July Revolution for completing the requirements for a democratic structure. In these circumstances it represents a major confrontation similar to what the Iraqi people waged during their historical struggle against the aggressors and the bitter enemies.

Al-Marsumi adds that this step makes it the duty of all patriots and Arab nationalists to assume their role

and reconfirm the Iraqi people's abidance of their pan-Arab and national principles under Saddam Husayn's historical leadership.

Al-Marsumi says that enemy forces want Iraq to forsake its independence and sovereignty, to give up its oil resources, and to set aside the Arab nation's causes and become an obedient dependent of the White House.

Al-Marsumi adds that the referendum on President Saddam Husayn is a new historical test in which the Iraqis, headed by patriots and Arab nationalists, will confirm that they support his excellency in his glorious jihad against the forces of evil and aggression, and that they are committed to the national program of the revolution and to the continuation of the march until victory.

'New Information' Cited on Bioweapons, Training

MM1409103895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Alan George: "New Information Reveals Scale of Program; Senior Iraqi Germ Weapons Scientists Received Their Training at British Universities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — New information obtained by UN weapons inspectors has revealed that most of the senior Iraqi scientists involved in the germ weapons program received their training at British universities in the eighties.

Until last month Baghdad had been saying that only 10 people were involved in its germ weapons program and that their task was limited to conducting research into defense methods against any germ attack.

Iraq had always insisted that Dr. R. T., who obtained her doctorate from East Anglia University in 1984, was the head of this limited project. But the special UN committee entrusted with dismantling mass-destruction weapons in Iraq had always suspected that Iraq's germ weapons program was much bigger and that Dr. R.T. was not the main supervisor of the program. The UN inspection team returned [from Iraq] last week with confirmations of these suspicions. The program focused on the production of the gangrene bacteria and viral agents that cause poisoning and malignant anthrax.

Furthermore, researches were conducted on eye hemorrhage that causes temporary blindness, on a virus that causes fatal diarrhea in children, and on a type of smallpox that causes sores, and also on a Congolese fever that causes hemorrhage.

So-called "suspended tanks," with which aircraft are equipped as additional tanks to be dropped when necessary, were modified to allow the aircraft to spread

the viruses and bacteria over vast areas from very high altitude.

The experiments were conducted using weapons filled with shrapnel in order to cause wounds to facilitate the gangrene infection.

UN inspectors obtained a list of 150 scientists and technicians who worked in the germ weapons program. All those who have doctorates in their area of specialization admitted to the UN team that they received their training at British universities.

It has also been revealed that Dr. R.T. was not the head of the project, and her identity is still a mystery.

The new information was revealed by the Iraqi regime after General Husayn Kamil's defection. Baghdad immediately supplied full details of its germ warfare program for fear that Husayn Kamil might offer important new information to the UN committee, which could expose Baghdad's attempts to deceive the international organization.

Despite Gen. Husayn Kamil's meeting with the Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN committee, and his protracted talks with U.S. and British officials, he made no important statements that would arouse surprise in this connection.

A Western official said that "the exciting and important information came not from Husayn Kamil, but from the Iraqi authorities themselves."

The new information is packed in 140 boxes containing thousands of documents that were handed by the Iraqis to UN inspectors on 21 August. It will take many weeks to classify them to assess their importance and value and conduct further inspections on the basis of their content.

800 al-Dalaym Tribe Prisoners Said 'Executed'

NC1309163595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In its latest issue, the NIDA' AL-RAFIDAYN weekly says the Baghdad regime executed about 800 prisoners recently. Citing its own sources, the weekly added that the majority of the executed prisoners were from al-Dulaym Tribe and residents of al-Ramadi city. The paper said the vicious crime was committed the same day the regime announced its nominal amnesty.

It also reported that the 'Aflaqite regime's Intelligence Directorate has planted mines in the oil fields, the Karkuk Oil Company, and the North Gas Establishment.

Meanwhile, Citing its own sources, the KURDISTAN NWAY newspaper reports today that on the night of 9/10 September, an unidentified armed group attacked

armed groups belonging to the 'Aflaqite regime in the Dumis District of Karkuk, killing or wounding a number of the groups' members.

Turkish Kurds Take 8 UN, Other Workers Hostage

NC1409104295 Paris AFP in English

1014 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 14 (AFP) — Turkish Kurds have taken eight UN and other humanitarian workers hostage at a refugee camp in northern Iraq, a UN official said here Thursday [14 September].

UN relief coordinator Victor Waleroze told AFP the eight were apparently abducted for "political reasons," while other sources in the region said they were being held as shields against possible attack from an Iraqi Kurdish faction.

Negotiations with representatives at the Atrush camp, near Dahuk, are taking place to win their release, Waleroze added.

Three UN officials and 10 other workers from non-government relief groups were prevented from leaving the camp on Tuesday by up to 1,000 refugees who swarmed around their cars.

Five non-government workers were freed on Wednesday following a round of negotiations, while the other eight hostages reportedly "were treated well and in good health," Waleroze said.

The United Nations has demanded "the unconditional release" of the eight others.

A source following events in northern Iraq said Atrush residents were holding the eight to prevent a possible attack from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which has controlled the area with other groups since after the 1991 Gulf War.

The camp shelters 14,000 Turkish Kurds who fled fighting in southeast Turkey between Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) separatists and the army.

PKK rebels, who have used northern Iraq as a base for attacks against the Turkish army and government, started fighting with the KPD in August in a bid to wreck a US-sponsored truce.

PUK Radio: Authorities Expel Kurds From Karkuk

NC1209175295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The steadfast city of Karkuk is foremost among the Kurdish areas that have been

consistently subjected to the processes of Arabizing, expulsion, and [word indistinct].

The Iraqi regime has used various terrorist methods and allotted vast sums of money to force the city's Kurds to leave it. Still, despite its financial resources and repressive methods, the regime has failed to distort the facts of history or weaken the will of this city's citizens.

It is true that the Iraqi regime has succeeded in rendering tens of thousands of Karkuk's Kurds homeless and replaced them with large numbers of Arab families, but the expelled Kurds have not forgotten their city and are eager to return to it.

Now, as the regime goes through its death throes, undermined by its internal conflicts and its growing international isolation, it has not (?stopped) its repressive measures against the Kurdish residents of Karkuk. It storms houses, pursues and arrests Kurdish citizens, and continues to evacuate them from the city.

According to current reports, the 'Aflaqite regime's repressive organs are continuing their heavy-handed policy of Arabizing the city. The authorities recently forced 16 Kurdish families to leave Karkuk and [place name indistinct] and to make their way to the liberated areas of Kurdistan.

We regard the Iraqi regime's continued expulsion of Kurds from Karkuk as a horrific violation of human rights and an attempt to upset the demographic composition of one of the most important areas inhabited by Kurds since ancient times.

All historical records prove the undeniable fact that Kurds settled the city before any other national group. The Iraqi regime is wrong to think it can distort historical facts by forging documents and old records.

Karkuk will once again become a city of amicable coexistence and a place where the 'Aflaqites' chauvinist, racist plans will be forever buried.

KDP Reports Operations Against PKK 'Aggressors'
JN1309102795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroic Kurdistan peshmerga with popular support have dealt another crippling blow to the PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] which has gone too far in its unjust war against the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]. The heroes of the KDP and Barzani on 12 September expelled the PKK terrorist from (Baryar al-Sufia) and from Atrush until Garah. They purged the area of PKK men and inflicted massive losses on the aggressors.

Thus, the PKK has received another crippling blow from the peshmerga. The PKK is the only party responsible for the human and material losses which have been sustained or the losses which are expected to result.

During this heroic operation, the Atrush-(Kanta) road was opened. The following areas have been purged from the PKK fighters and centers: (Sharukanika), (Davarpos), (Rabatpos), (Milbirkih), and (Kulya).

The peshmerga forces captured large quantities of arms, ammunition, and supplies.

Over the past two weeks, the (Uthirbi) and (Miriz) were purged from the PKK dens, bases, and centers, inflicting punishment on traitor [PKK leader] Ocalan because of his unjustified aggression against the KDP.

The PKK fighters have practiced atrocities against the people in areas which were purged from them. They kidnapped people and stole cars.

Finance Minister on Impact of Defection Furor
MM1309111395 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Sep 95 p 4

[Interview with Minister of Finance Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir by Mahmud Ma'ruf in Rabat "last weekend"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ma'ruf] What are you bringing with you to [your meeting with] the heads of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]?

[Khudayyir] Iraq's meeting with the brothers of the Arab Maghreb is nothing new. During the past five years, there was high-level coordination of positions between the two sides in good times and bad. Emissaries of President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Hassan II never ceased coming to Morocco for consultations to heal the Arab schism and realize the minimum level of Arab solidarity. The messages I am bringing with me revolve around the recent developments in the Arab arena and the latest developments in the relations between Iraq and the UN Security Council.

[Ma'ruf] You have bypassed the repercussions of Husayn Kamil's flight?

[Khudayyir] No, I have not bypassed this incident, which is no small incident, in either its private framework or its public framework. But this matter falls within the framework of the latest developments which have taken place in the region. This is because Husayn Kamil's flight was one of the dramatic events that is detrimental to Iraq, though it has failed to accomplish the aim set for it by the forces that led the post-escape campaign. I can say with full confidence that Husayn

Kamil's escape and departure from Iraq have had very positive results.

[Ma'ruf] What was planned?

[Khudayyir] According to our impressions and the facts we have obtained, Husayn Kamil was in collusion against Iraq. The timing of his departure coincided with [efforts to realize] the objective to maintain the blockade against Iraq. He used to hide information and documents from the United Nations, and so when Iraq told Ekeus, the chairman of the UN committee [on Iraqi arms destruction] that the end of August would be the last date for defining a clear position for closing the dossiers on mass-destruction weapons, Husayn Kamil fled, aiming to use the documents he was concealing to declare that Iraq has been keeping information from the United Nations. This is exactly what he did, during his meeting with Rolf Ekeus in Amman.

We have in Iraq a large team entrusted with the task of cooperation with the UN Committee, which is led on the political side by Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Tariq 'Aziz, and by numerous experts and technicians on the technical side. The matter required a large number of people. The majority of these experts and technicians came from the staff of the Military Industrialization Organization, which Husayn Kamil used to head, and so he managed to conceal part of the dossiers from both the UN Committee and the team. He instructed some of the experts to keep the concealed documents at his personal disposal. So whenever Iraq offered Ekeus information, he [Ekeus] used to say in his reports that Iraq has been very cooperative though there is still a small matter pending, a sentence which was enough for Albright to seize upon to use for extending the blockade.

The [Iraqi] leadership had presented Ekeus with all the information and documents it possessed and fixed the end of August as a date for closing all dossiers. Now let us follow the scenario of what could have happened: On that date, Iraq would declare that if the United Nations would not lift the embargo, it would stop cooperating with its committee. So Husayn Kamil would then present all his documents, and this would be enough for waging new aggression on Iraq. For this reason, as soon as the Iraqi leadership discovered what documents Husayn Kamil had in his possession, it rushed to invite Ekeus and inform him of all the facts and documents.

[Ma'ruf] But Husayn Kamil was part of the leadership?

[Khudayyir] He was part of the regime, indeed in the heart of the regime, and he headed an important establishment. So when he participates in a collusion, his action becomes flagrantly grave. At the beginning,

we did not believe these matters but later we discovered the facts, and so we removed this mine and it no longer poses a threat. This was because whenever he tried during the official meetings to drive Iraq into suspending its cooperation with the United Nations and onto other dangerous routes, we used to interpret his stands sometimes as being due to his ignorance, lack of education, lack of political experience, and lack of knowledge of what is taking place in the Arab and international arenas.

[Ma'ruf] The escape of a minister or even the son-in-law of a president is de facto an important event. But in the case of Husayn Kamil, his escape has had repercussions in the region.

[Khudayyir] We do not forget that many forces, particularly in the United States, are seeking to change the political map of the region. But the Iraqi regime poses an obstacle in the way of what these forces are seeking and so they tried hard to strike it, but found it a hard nut to crack. For this reason, they wanted to create a gap in this wall, believing that this gap, which touches the heart of the current situation between Iraq and the United Nations, particularly since Husayn Kamil is a relative of the president and is his son-in-law and had shouldered important responsibilities, will constitute a blow to the regime. Truly, the escape of the traitor constitutes an event in view of the secrets he possessed. But he became a pivot which many circles, particularly the United States and those who sympathize with it, tried to exploit for their own ends as a prelude to aggression but failed.

With regard to the region, all attempts at decimating Iraq have been rejected by Iran, Turkey, and Syria because this will constitute a threat to the security of the entire region. Let us take one example, the Kurdish question. Iraq is the only country which has granted the Kurds self-rule, which was in 1970. In other countries, the Kurds are deprived of exercising the most fundamental rights as a people and as a nation.

[Ma'ruf] And with regard to Jordan?

[Khudayyir] Relations with Jordan did not start with the years of the embargo nor even with the start of the war against Iran. It began on the basis of an Iraqi initiative and an Iraqi decision in the mid-seventies. They are fraternal and sincere relations based on the affiliation to one nation as well as on the economic interests of both countries, at a time when Iraq was not (in need) of Jordan either politically or economically, and at a time when Husayn Kamil was not in power but was a mere private in the Iraqi Army. We hope the Jordanian leadership will find out that this event cannot shake the Iraqi outlook toward relations with Jordan.

This incident and its repercussions are regrettable. But this incident has happened. We were taken by surprise to find out that Husayn Kamil was a liar and a thief. This constitutes a weak point in our position and in my statements: How can we agree to entrust a man with such characteristics with such responsibilities? But it happened.

[Ma'ruf] Has he taken with him millions [currency not stated], as we have heard?

[Khudayyir] We have documents about this matter. Prior to his departure, he took out of the Iraqi official banks a sum of \$8.7 million (and not 8 billion as a Tunisian paper claimed, because Iraq does not have 8 billion). He took this money in cash. He also took other sums of money from the local market and changed millions of Iraqi dinars into gold. A committee has been formed to investigate all this to find out the true final figures.

Husayn Kamil began to feel the danger following the unmasking of the story of the Iraqi cigarettes which he used to sell by barter through his cousin ('Izz-al-Din Hasan) who fled with him. He used to exercise a monopoly of cigarettes and then sell them later at higher prices and change the profits into dollars.

As a member of the cabinet, I recall that when the president took over the duties of premiership, he issued directives about the need to return to the rule of law and the termination of the state of emergency that was imposed in the wake of the aggression for the sake of the reconstruction operation. He asked all the responsible officials to abide by the law and to enforce it. Then he gave out signals about excesses that had taken place and about thefts of people's funds.

Two months prior to his [Husayn Kamil's] escape, committees were formed to investigate some of his companies and the president asked the chief of the Financial Auditing Department, which is a department concerned with controlling state expenditure and is attached to the chairmanship of the Revolution Command Council, to investigate these companies. These events were sufficient to signal to Husayn Kamil that the secret of his thefts had come out into the open. Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance had raised cases about some excesses that were carried out by some of these companies, and this was sufficient to convict him.

I do not claim that I knew he was planning to flee or that he was a traitor or that I was aware or believed that he would lower himself to this extent. But his behavior and actions were harmful, disturbing, and painful.

[Ma'ruf] Some people say that he had previous links with the American intelligence department.

[Khudayyir] I have no information to talk about. But he has visited the United States on two past occasions and also he used to meet with representatives of American companies.

[Ma'ruf] Some say that the role of the family in power has taken a major chunk [of power] at the expense of the role of the party and institutions.

[Khudayyir] On numerous occasions in the past, when the excesses of some members of his [Saddam's] family were brought to him, I used to hear him say — and this is because I occupied the post of the director of his office for seven years — we are a state led by the Ba'th Party and these facts are all we have. He also used to say always that there were no princes in the administrative hierarchy of the state. Many of those who work close to President Saddam used to say that he was harsh in dealing with members of his family whenever any of them committed any excesses.

Iraq will inevitably benefit from this incident, though the leadership cannot belittle its importance. Many of the wrong tendencies will be reviewed with a view to their rectification so as to strengthen the effectiveness of the role of the masses and the republican institutions in running the state. The will for change has always been there and matters will return to normality once the state of emergency we are living through comes to an end. Iraq is still living through a difficult, indeed very difficult, situation. The more the blockade continues the greater will be the difficulties. But the slogan of return to the rule of law is not new.

This is all I can say with regard to the questions of the family, the party, and the state.

[Ma'ruf] In your capacity as minister of finance, how long can Iraq withstand this state of affairs economically?

[Khudayyir] Until eternity. We work on the basis of "live your next day as though you will live for ever." We work as though the blockade will continue. We also work on the basis of "live your day fully as though you will be dying tomorrow," that is, we prepare ourselves for the lifting of the blockade. So we daily renew our programs. For Iraq is a large and rich country and has a promising economy. Despite the embargo imposed on it, the production machinery never stopped, while agriculture is progressing and prospering. The same applied to our giant projects. Under the auspices of the blockade, every day we have been discovering new treasures and carrying out projects we never thought we could undertake such as the third river, the bridges, and the factories. The blockade is harmful and painful and the people's sacrifices are daily. We have no alternative

but to continue on our road, the road of steadfastness and building.

[Ma'ruf] There were fears that Husayn Kamil might expose the whereabouts of Iraqi assets abroad. What do you say about this?

[Khudayyir] The first one to entertain such fears should be me in my capacity as minister of finance. But I am not afraid. For Iraq's funds are in Iraq itself. We have no secret accounts abroad. There are our resources from our local production in addition to what we get from term transactions [safaqat bi al-ajal] from companies that have confidence in Iraq's future. This is in addition to the frozen assets for transactions that never got completed. The Americans are aware of all our assets abroad.

[Ma'ruf] Did you ever try to retrieve your assets which are frozen in the banks of some countries?

[Khudayyir] Firstly, this act of freezing of assets is unlawful. For this reason, the quarters that issued resolutions to tighten things on Iraq followed them by other resolutions aimed at further tightening. Some of these resolutions concern assets in foreign banks. But our activities are continuing and so are our contacts for the retrieval of these assets. The various companies and the countries realize that the [present] financial data are not characteristic of the Iraqi economy, but rather the characteristics of the blockade. Once conditions return to normal, Iraq will have its economic weight.

[Ma'ruf] Have Iraq's oil exports to Jordan become a problem?

[Khudayyir] No. The Jordanian minister of energy has stated that for technical reasons he has postponed the visit he was scheduled to make to Baghdad to sign the renewal of the annual agreement on the Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan. On our part, we are ready to renew the agreement, and the Jordanians should have no reason for concern. The Jordanian minister of energy also said that Jordan is taking precautions by opening lines with other countries for fear of stoppage of the Iraqi oil flow to Jordan.

We have never asked and would never ask Jordan to curtail its relations with any Arab country—indeed, we call upon it to develop these relations including its relations with the Gulf countries. We declare our readiness to establish relations of natural and close cooperation with all the Arab countries including Saudi Arabia and even including Kuwait as well. For we do not panic or feel afraid or worried over Jordan's relations with the Gulf countries. Iraq does not resort to methods of blackmail in its dealing and if it promises

something it honors its promises and if it commits itself to anything it carries it out, and Jordan knows this.

[Ma'ruf] Do you think Jordan has based its position on what Husayn Kamil has said or was this part of a new development and a new international outlook of the region?

[Khudayyir] From the speech of His Majesty King Husayn, we can deduce that it was a position taken after he listened to what Husayn Kamil had to say. But the fact is that Husayn Kamil is the biggest liar. We hope the brothers in Jordan would come to realize this. The documents transmitted over Jordanian Television in the voice of Husayn Kamil show who was the one who advocated the suspension of dealings with the United Nations and the occupation of Kuwait and part of Saudi Arabia and who considers Jordan not to be a sincere friend to Iraq. I can affirm on the basis of documents that Husayn Kamil has been working for two years to disrupt Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

[Ma'ruf] How is that?

[Khudayyir] During the meetings of the ministerial advisory committee on economy, which I headed, Husayn Kamil, who was a member of the committee, always raised the question of the Jordanian merchants and used to demand that they should not be granted any concessions or rights and should be replaced by Iraqi merchants. He also used to call for ending the use of the port of 'Aqaba [for Iraqi imports] and its replacement by another port and for replacing Iraq's imports of Jordanian goods by goods from other sources. All these facts are documented in his own voice in the annals of the ministerial committee. The investigations have revealed also that the companies he supervised always kept away from Jordanian markets, because he did not trust Jordan nor King Husayn, as he used to say.

For the sake of history I say that President Saddam Husayn used to reject any idea that would harm relations with Jordan or impede economic cooperation between Iraq and Jordan and affirm that Jordan was a friendly country and its people have endured a great deal.

[Ma'ruf] Are there any fears that Jordan might close its borders with you?

[Khudayyir] All the indications are that it will not close its borders, because the economy has been fluctuating between high and low, and so it is in Jordan's interest to maintain relations with Iraq and keep its outlets open to goods destined for the Iraqi market, which is a market of 20 million people and absorbs a great deal of Jordanian products. Furthermore, we are the strategic rear for Jordan with whom we have nationalist bonds.

[Ma'ruf] The strategic rear existed in the days before the [Jordanian] peace accords with Israel. Is it not so?

[Khudayyir] We will always be the strategic rear. On the basis of analytical logic I can say that the Jordanian economy will not benefit in any way from the Israeli economy, and this is something the Jordanians themselves say. Israeli tourists, for example, spend nothing in the Jordanian market.

[Ma'ruf] Will the attitude Syria has taken toward the escape of Husayn Kamil constitute a pivot for the establishment of relations with Iraq?

[Khudayyir] This is what we and every Arab hope. We favor rapprochement between Syria and Iraq. I cite in this regard what one of the Syrian responsible officials said concerning the dangers threatening the region. We will feel happy at any Syrian response to Arab ambitions for fraternal relations and cooperation. We would appreciate any statement by any Syrian responsible official noting Iraq's conditions and expressing sympathy with its people and demanding the lifting of the embargo and the safeguarding of Iraq's unity, independence, and sovereignty.

[Ma'ruf] What about the Egyptian position?

[Khudayyir] We have welcomed the statements made by President Husni Mubarak who spoke about the flight of the traitor Husayn Kamil in all objectivity and fairness. We believe that President Mubarak realizes that Iraq is an Arab country against whom the forces of aggression and conspiracy have been ganging up in order to shatter it and he also realizes the extent of this conspiracy.

[Ma'ruf] The Saudi attitude has been characterized by silence. Is that not so?

[Khudayyir] This is perhaps because Saudi Arabia knows what Husayn Kamil is really worth.

[Ma'ruf] Do you have any contacts with it?

[Khudayyir] I have no information in this regard. But I can affirm in the name of Iraq that we are ready for all kinds of contacts and cooperation for the sake of the good of the region. We reiterate our readiness to send emissaries to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Syria and to any Arab country desiring cooperation.

[Ma'ruf] There has been no Iranian reply to Iraq's invitation to establish an alliance between the two countries, has there?

[Khudayyir] Iranian reactions have been cautious throughout the past month and indicate that this incident (Husayn Kamil's defection) has acquired bigger dimensions than it merits. There is also the Iranian

concern over the American massing of forces. This was clearly evident from the Syrian-Jordanian contacts.

[Ma'ruf] When you as an Iraqi responsible official read about or hear of all the analyses issued about Iraq, what do you say?

[Khudayyir] I hope this question would be addressed to the Iraqi citizen, particularly after the dissemination of the news about the deployment of the Iraqi army in the streets of Baghdad or about the occurrence of troubles here or there [in Iraq]. The citizen has laughed at these reports. The problem is that Husayn Kamil wanted to give himself a halo, and he was believed by those who wanted to believe him. But we in Iraq live a natural and secure life and our problem lies with the embargo and its effect on the Iraqi citizen. As to the question of the changing of the Iraqi regime or the partitioning of Iraq, I would say that many [military] concentrations took place some years ago, and they launched a war against Iraq but could not partition it. Iraq is a big country and its people are ready to defend themselves. Iraq is not a cake or a morsel that could be easily chewed and digested.

Anyone looking for human rights in Iraq should first release the Iraqis' assets and provide them, for their own money, with the medicine they need. We demand to buy medicine from the countries which have frozen our funds.

[Ma'ruf] Has the decision to amend the Constitution come in the wake of the amnesty decision?

[Khudayyir] Following the amnesty decision, a large number of Iraqis returned home. But Husayn Kamil's flight has impeded the return of others. But all Iraqi prisons have been emptied of all prisoners except those charged with serious criminal offenses.

[Ma'ruf] Is this a prelude to partisan and political pluralism?

[Khudayyir] God willing, because we have banned nothing and the leadership is ready to enter into any stage which would serve Iraq's interests. For every step is followed by other steps.

Paper Urges Public To Rally Behind Saddam

JN1309123195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0840 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH holds the United States responsible for the faltered democratic experiences in the world countries which seek security, stability, and progress.

In an editorial published today under the headline: "While America Assassinates World Democracy, Besieged Iraq Entrenches Its Democratic March," it says:

America deliberately sows discord and chaos here and there to wipe out stability and security and to force every citizen to face the threats of death, famine, disease, and daily fear to force him to surrender to the conditions of brute force.

It adds that America imposes its conditions and uses force to "convince" others of these conditions. We face a U.S. world view which believes that all civilizations should abandon their values and heritage and abide by the concepts of the U.S. civilization.

It stresses that these conditions clearly show a dictatorship and totalitarian tendency aimed at abolishing the nation's civilizations and traditions by force and imposing U.S. values and concepts. Thus, America is practicing the worst kinds of pressure and coercion with human beings to force them to bow to its policies.

It says the recent Iraqi measure represented in the constitutional amendments to entrench democracy, was a new, advanced Iraqi step to entrench the democratic approach of the Iraqi revolution and minimize the colonialist influence on several social sections.

It says every Iraqi is aware that targeting President Saddam Husayn personally is meant to prepare for disintegrating Iraq, dividing it, and igniting civil wars inside it, and that rallying behind his excellency is a crucial condition to maintain the active Iraqi force in order to abort the U.S. plans and plots to penetrate Iraq.

The newspaper reviewed the role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in entrenching the democratic march in Iraq throughout the years of the revolution since 1968 and up to the present, despite the obstacles and challenges made by the colonialist forces to obstruct this march that has faith in the human being and his freedom.

It stresses that all indications in the political history of the United States externally and internally have been contrary to what Iraq has offered along the democratic path. It was substantially proven that the United States has been confronting democracy in the world since the 1950's and supporting dictatorship regimes to wipe out democratic experiences such as the case when Salvador Allende was assassinated in Chile, and elsewhere.

The newspaper urges all Iraqis to defend an independent and strong Iraq whose flag is being hoisted by President Saddam Husayn.

Saddam Congratulates Sultan of Oman on Safety

JN1209153695 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Sep 95

["Text" of cable from Saddam Husayn to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Majesty brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman: We extend to you our best congratulations on your safety after the regrettable road accident you were involved in. We beseech God to protect you against any harm and to grant you continued good health.

We also received with sorrow and regret the news of the death of your Deputy Prime Minister Qays al-Zawawi, may God have mercy on him. We were deeply moved by what happened. We beseech God to grant you and al-Zawawi's family patience and solace.

[Signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

Health Minister Meets Arab-American Committee Official

JN1009173495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak met here today with Muhammad Hasan Sa'id, head of the Arab-American Committee against Foreign Intervention in the Gulf.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the acute shortage of food and medicine due to the continued blockade. Sa'id appealed to the humanitarian organizations to cooperate and work seriously for lifting the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Sudanese Parliamentary Delegation Departs

JN1009190195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—Abu-'Ali Majdhub, head of the parliamentary commission of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly, and his delegation left Baghdad today following a visit to the country lasting several days.

In a statement to INA, Majdhub said his meetings with Iraqi officials focused on consolidating relations between both fraternal countries and discussing the recent Arab and international political developments.

He added that the Revolution Command Council's decree on the Constitutional amendment and the popular referendum regarding the election of a president for the Republic is a new and timely step designed to reply to

the U.S.-Zionist nonsense and conspiracies which try to harm Iraq and its national sovereignty.

Majdhub reiterated the Sudanese people's support for the Iraqi people's struggle in confronting the imperialist challenges which try to harm Iraq and the Arab nation.

UN Envoy Protests Airspace 'Violations'

*JN0809120195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0900 GMT 8 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 8 Sep (INA)—Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, has sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general protesting U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace on provocative and surveillance missions between 21 and 31 August.

In his memorandum sent on 5 September, Ambassador Hamdun said these planes violated Iraqi airspace in 772 sorties and other surveillance sorties. He asked that the memorandum be distributed as a UN Security Council document.

Arab League Delegate Protests Airspace Violations

*JN1109171495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1500 GMT 11 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the Arab League over the violation of Iraqi airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, posing a serious threat to Iraq's sovereignty and national unity.

A letter, which Iraq's permanent delegate delivered to the Arab League secretary general, says that these aircraft violated Iraqi airspace from 20 to 30 August, carrying out 714 hostile sorties from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Iraq's permanent delegate demanded that the letter be distributed to the member states to acquaint them with these regrettable incidents.

Interim Signing Ceremony Scheduled for 21 Sep
TA1409070395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
14 Sep 95 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben, Ori Nir, and 'Amira Segev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The signing ceremony for the Israeli-Palestinian interim agreement is scheduled for next Thursday, 21 September, at the White House in Washington. The prime minister's bureau has already booked a special Air Force plane to fly Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and the delegation members to the ceremony.

According to the plan, the implementation of which depends on completing the agreement on time, Rabin and Peres will leave Israel on 20 September and sign the agreement in Washington the next day. Rabin will return to Israel on the same day, and Peres will remain in Washington for the weekend, during which he will attend the conference for countries donating to the Palestinian Authority.

The prime minister told HA'ARETZ last night that the negotiating delegations will try to agree on most of the yet unresolved issues by 15 September in order to submit the serious problems to the political echelons for them to decide on. Rabin said that an effort will be made to complete the agreement by the scheduled date, but added: "Why should I commit myself to dates at this time? What is important is to complete the agreement first. We had set dates in July and August, and the agreement was not completed."

Rabin further said that "the Americans can arrange the ceremony very quickly. Even in the Washington Declaration (Rabin-Husayn meeting in July 1994) they prepared the meeting in four days." [passage omitted]

Peres: 'No Regrets' on Anniversary of Declaration
TA1309165095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1600 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 13th of September 1995: Two years since Israel and the PLO signed the Declaration of Principles in Washington. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel has no regrets. He spoke to reporters in Jerusalem today on his thoughts two years later.

[Begin Peres recording] The most important point, I believe, is that Chairman 'Arafat has shown a capacity to govern the Gaza Strip and Jericho; that the mood in those two places has changed considerably. There is an air of freedom. I think the Palestinian Authority started to preempt terror, not because it is a need for Israel but because this is a condition for their own existence. And while some Palestinians were very much in doubt if

Israel will continue the negotiations in relation to other parts of the territories — you know, there was a saying among the Palestinians that Gaza first and Gaza last — we have shown that this is not true: Gaza first and we go on.

And, we hope that before too long the Palestinian people who reside in Gaza and the West Bank will become a democratic society, govern its own land, its own destinies. For us it is also a great day, the minute we shall not have to administer the life of another people. We do it, first of all, as a moral choice. Nobody has forced us, we are not weak, we are not afraid, we are not confused, we don't regret. We think that we did the right thing from a moral point of view and from a historic necessity. [end recording]

Beilin Assesses Middle East Peace Prospects

MS1409110095 London INDEPENDENT in English
14 Sep 95 p 11

[Report on interview with Yosi Beilin by Patrick Cockburn: "Months of Talk Put Palestine Peace in Peril"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem — Opponents of a peace between Israelis and Palestinians have been able to rally support because the negotiations are too drawn out, says Yosi Beilin, the Israeli government minister, who was the intellectual driving force behind the Israel-PLO agreement signed in Washington two years ago yesterday.

He believes that, because it is taking so long to reach agreement, pessimistic suspicions have flourished on both sides. Palestinians believe they are being fobbed off with scraps and Israelis fear they are seeing the creation of a full-blown Palestinian state with its capital in east Jerusalem.

As deputy foreign minister, Mr Beilin was Israel's most effective dove during the Oslo negotiations and subsequent talks with the PLO.

Emphasising at a meeting with British correspondents this week that "time is running out", he appeared to imply that a victory by the right-wing Likud party is likely in the general election in Israel in October 1996.

He said he thought that Binyamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader, had not "taken a final decision" about what he would do about talks with the Palestinians if he formed the next government. In any case, the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the impending redeployment from at least five West Bank cities would by then be irreversible.

Mr Beilin, 47, promoted to the full cabinet as Economics Minister this summer, is a hate figure for Israeli settlers and the right. They regard him with much more animosity than they do Shim'on Peres, the Foreign Minister, and his political mentor. Mr Beilin, a political scientist, says he became more of a dove after the 1973 war, which showed Israel was not as strong as it had appeared after victory in the 1967 war.

He admits that Yitzhaq Rabin, the Prime Minister, and Mr Peres do not support his belief that negotiations should be speeded up and move immediately to the permanent solution of outstanding differences between Israelis and Palestinians. These talks on Jerusalem, settlers and other apparently insoluble problems are due to start on 4 May.

Mr Beilin said yesterday that the present talks about an interim settlement were "in a way a waste of effort"; money and intellectual resources were being invested in an agreement which would be almost immediately superseded when final-status talks began. But he admits the strength of the case that a step-by-step approach is necessary to win public support for military withdrawal.

Mr Beilin takes heart from a new poll which shows the Israeli public's ambivalence on the peace talks with Yasir 'Arafat the PLO chairman. The poll, by Haifa University, showed that 53 per cent of Israelis say Mr 'Arafat is a terrorist, murderer and enemy, but 73 per cent think that Israel should continue negotiations with him.

Mr Beilin says the peace treaty with Jordan would not have been possible without the Oslo agreement. Asked about Jordanians fears that they would be economically engulfed by Israel, he quoted a senior Jordanian official as telling him that "when you compare your economy to ours, you will dominate us by nature of your size".

Actions by Jewish settlers were dismissed by Mr Beilin as having "a nuisance value", but the murder of a Palestinian near Hebron and the attacks on a girls' school in the city this week have been condemned by the U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns described an attack by settlers on Sunday on the elementary school, in which four pupils were injured, as "truly shocking, even by the low standards set by some of the settler communities in the West Bank".

Weizman: 'Extradition Agreement Should Be Amended'

*TAI309124995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman says Yasir 'Arafat is making a grave mistake by deciding not

to extradite the Wadi al-Qilt murderers to Israel. The president said that the extradition agreement should be amended.

The president says the polarization within Israeli society is worsening. He urged the Zo Artzenu demonstrators to preserve law and order and not to block the roads. Mr. Weizman spoke with our correspondent Yo'av Aviv during a visit to a computer company in Tel Aviv.

South African Foreign Minister Pays Visit

Cooperation Agreement Signed

*TAI309131595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and South Africa today signed a cooperation agreement. After the signing, visiting RSA Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said that South Africa is seeking Israel's assistance to help improve living conditions in his country. According to him, South Africa's ties with Iran correspond with his country's peace policy and do not harm any other country.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Nzo invited his counterpart Shim'on Peres to visit South Africa, and noted that President Mandela hopes to visit Israel next year. The South African visitor told Minister Peres that he would like to visit Orient House in East Jerusalem, and Peres asked him not to. Our political correspondent reports that Nzo said he would consider Peres' request.

Nzo Comments on Ties With Iran

*TAI309173095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1600 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and South Africa today signed a framework agreement for bilateral cooperation. The signing took place in Jerusalem at a meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his South African counterpart, Alfred Nzo. Nzo said he wanted Israel to help in the reconstruction of South Africa. He said Pretoria has no choice but to forget Israel's ties with the former apartheid government and that the sky is the limit for relations in the future. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo told reporters he described to Shim'on Peres the enormous problems faced by the new South African government of national unity in trying to build a better life for the people there. He invited Israel to participate in the reconstruction and development program in whatever way it can.

The South African foreign minister, a leader in the African National Congress, spoke enthusiastically of cooperation with Jerusalem despite Israel's close relationship with former South African apartheid governments.

[Nzo] Israel is not the only country that was not struggling against apartheid we criticized. But the reality that faces the government of national unity is that now we are an independent state, and, being an independent state, we wanted, first of all, to ensure that we break out of the isolation that our country suffered before.

[Ze'ev] But one of the countries establishing close relations with South Africa is Iran. After Peres and Nzo question-and-answer session, Peres brushed aside a reporter's question right into the lap of his South African counterpart on whether relations between Pretoria and Tehran were too warm.

[Peres] Well, about the warmth of the ties and their nature, why wouldn't the minister answer?

[Nzo] Well, I have just indicated to you that after our democratic transformation we started establishing relations with all the countries. Now, when we do that, I want to emphasize again that we are not doing so at the expense of any third countries. The foreign minister of Iran has been to our country, during which various agreements were entered into that we are sure are going to work for the mutual benefit of both our countries and peoples, which is the main aim. But, of course, all this is happening within the context of the guideline laid down by our foreign policy, which is one of peace, democracy, human rights.

[Ze'ev] The South African foreign minister said President Nelson Mandela had hoped to visit Israel this year, but his schedule would only allow the president to come during 1996 instead. [end recording]

South African 'Source' on Nuclear Aid to Iran

TA1409084695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 14 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] South Africa's ties with Iran are purely economic, and South Africa is committed to a moderate foreign policy course, a participant cited visiting Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo as telling Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday.

The U.S. and Israel believe that South Africa should not store Iranian oil on its soil. Economics and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin raised this issue during his own meeting with Nzo yesterday morning, sources say.

Before flying here, Nzo issued a statement seeking to clarify South Africa's ties with Iran. He said Pretoria

"has not entered into any agreement concerning nuclear cooperation with Iran."

Noting that South Africa has denuclearized in the last few years, Nzo sought to assure Peres that his country would avoid aiding Iranian nuclear ambitions.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 14 September publishes on page 13 a similar report by Arik Bakhar and 'Ada Kohen which adds: "A high-ranking South African source told MA'ARIV that Pretoria has guaranteed no military use would be made of nuclear aid to Iran. The source further revealed that Iran had insisted that Nelson Mandela's government cool relations between South Africa and Israel, but that the demand was rejected."]

As he repeated publicly later, Nzo said that any South African ties with Iran would not come at the expense of the bilateral relationship with Israel. "South Africa is determined not to conduct its bilateral relations with any country to the detriment of any third party," he said.

The two countries signed a framework agreement yesterday which called for both parties to advance ties in a variety of areas.

Apart from the Iranian issue, the meeting seemed bereft of other controversy. Nzo explained South Africa's economic development challenge, while Peres gave an overview of Middle East peace developments.

Peres also said Israel would be happy for President Nelson Mandela to visit, and Nzo said that his country would invite Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to Pretoria.

While there have been strains in the relationship due to the new South African government's view of Israel as being linked to the apartheid regime, Nzo sought to accentuate the positive.

In his speech at a lunch hosted by Peres, he thanked Israel for providing a variety of technical training for over 500 South Africans here over the last few years in a bid to assist South Africa's economic development program.

Nzo went on to congratulate Israel's drive for Middle East peace. "One of the main purposes of my visit is to affirm South Africa's solidarity with the achievements of the evolving peace process in the region," he declared. [passage omitted]

South African Chief of Staff Begins 3-Day Visit
TA1409085495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 14 Sep 95 p 12

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gen. G.L. Meiring, chief of staff of the South African armed forces, began a three-day visit yesterday, the first official visit of its kind.

Meiring is being hosted by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq. [passage omitted]

Meiring, whose visit coincides with that of Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo, was hosted yesterday by Defense Ministry Director-General David 'Ivri, another key figure in the development of defense relations between the two countries.

Meiring will meet with Shahaq today, and is scheduled to visit military installations and various defense industries. In the briefings he will receive on Israel's threat perceptions and regional military balance, he will be told that Israel views with great concern recent ties between South Africa and Iran and the prospect of a deal on nuclear facilities. [passage omitted]

IDF 'Forcefully' Ends Demonstration in Hebron
TA1409104695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1000 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers forcefully dispersed hundreds of students who were demonstrating in the city hall square protesting the settlers' activities. The demonstrators were dispersed after they had thrown stones at the soldiers. A foreign news network photographer was injured in the head during the demonstration and was taken to a hospital.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the soldiers used stun grenades to disperse the demonstra-

tors. Two youths were arrested on suspicion of throwing stones.

The Fatah leadership will pay a sympathy visit to Hebron and discuss future protest activities with local residents.

'First' Arab Ambassador Appointed to Finland
TA1309131795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
13 Sep 95 p 9

[Report by 'Ada Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] For the first time in its history, Israel will have an Arab ambassador. 'Ali Adib Hasan Yahya, 49, a resident of Kafr Kanna in the Triangle was yesterday appointed Israel's next ambassador to Finland. The decision was made at a meeting of the appointments committee headed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. [passage omitted]

Rabin Reports Joint Ukraine Defense Industry Deal
TA1309153295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1500 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and Ukraine will cooperate in the area of the defense industry. After a meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma this afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that an agreement was made on a deal for the upgrading of MiG- 21's. Another, tripartite deal was made for the construction of training planes for the Thai Army. The plane will be provided by Ukraine and the Czech Republic, and Israel Aircraft Industries will provide the flight systems.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the prime minister has concluded his meetings in Kiev, and is leaving for Moscow.

House Denounces Libyan Deportation of Palestinians*JN1309201395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[Statement issued by the House of Representatives "this evening"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The House is following with utter regret, sorrow, and disappointment the suffering of the Palestinian and Arab brothers who reside in Libya. This is after the arbitrary, unjust, and inhuman decision to expel them from their second home in which they sought refuge after believing what they heard from the Libyan authorities that that country was their homeland and that those genuine Arab people were their kinsfolk, hosts, and supporters.

The Jordanian House of Representatives denounces the Libyan Government's irresponsible behavior which will be denounced by generations to come and will remain a source of disgrace for this regime which is controlling the resources of the fraternal Libyan people.

Party Leader Says Iraq Sanctions 'Disgraceful'*JN1309120195 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, 13 Sep [INA]—A Jordanian politician described the anti-Iraq sanctions as a disgraceful act against humanity.

The secretary general of the Jordanian party of the Islamic Labor Front [Islamic Action Front] Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan condemned the continuity of the embargo as the Security Council behave unseriously in dealing with the Arab and Islamic issues in Palestine and Bosnia.

Dr. al-Farhan demanded in his statement all the Arab and Islamic governments not to implement the resolution of keeping the embargo intact. [sentence as received]

He also requested the political parties, the Arab and Islamic parliaments as well as the popular bodies to strengthen their efforts to oblige the governments to break up the embargo.

King, Qatari Amir Discuss Ties, Arab Solidarity*JN1309153995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Soon after the arrival of His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the sisterly State of Qatar, in his second home, His Majesty King Husayn met with his grand guest at the Royal Hashemite Court.

The Jordanian and Qatari sides held a session of talks which was preceded by a closed meeting between the two great leaders.

The Qatari-Jordanian talks are aimed at completing coordination between Amman and Doha to serve Arab solidarity and to achieve the nation's interests and bring its peoples' viewpoints closer through the wisdom of His Majesty King Husayn and his brother Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani. These talks also cover recent developments in the region in line with the requirements of peace building. This is so that the Middle East can keep abreast of international developments and be prepared to cooperate with neighboring Europe and other influential powers to guarantee the nation's prosperity and stability and its peoples' security.

The expanded meeting was attended on the Qatari side by the foreign minister, the finance minister, and the Qatari ambassador in Amman. It was attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Prince Muhammad, His Majesty King Husayn's personal representative; His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; the prime minister; the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Majesty King Husayn's military secretary; the foreign minister; the minister of finance; the minister of industry and trade; and the Jordanian ambassador to Qatar.

His Majesty King Husayn bestowed on his brother His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, the al-Husayn Bin-'Ali medal. His majesty also hosted a luncheon in honor of his highness the amir of Qatar which included senior officials from both sides.

Review Regional Events, Relations*JN1409101195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14-15 Sep 95 p 1*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn and Qatar's Amir, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, on Wednesday [13 September] discussed the Middle East situation, bilateral relations and the latest developments in Iraq following the defection of a high-ranking Iraqi official to Jordan last month.

Also expected to have figured high in the four-hour meeting between the King and Shaykh Hamad, both of whom later flew to Oman separately to meet with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, was an emerging agreement under which Jordan will be a key transit point for Qatar gas pumped to the Mediterranean.

According to sources, King Husayn and Shaykh Hamad "agreed on the importance of preserving the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty" of Iraq. They also took note that the Iraqi recognition of Kuwait's new

U.N.-drawn borders last year was a "step in the positive direction" leading to the implementation of the related United Nations Security Council resolutions and the lifting of the international sanctions against Iraq.

Qatar, which follows a independent foreign policy not necessarily endorsed by its neighbours in the Gulf, was the first country from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to normalise ties with Iraq following the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait.

Shaykh Hamad said this week in an interview with a London-based television station that his country stood ready to receive Iraqi defector Husayn Kamil, former Iraqi minister of industry, who fled to Jordan on Aug. 8 and was given asylum here along with his brother, Saddam Kamil and their wives, both daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The King and Shaykh Hamad also discussed the Middle East peace process and "steps that are to be taken to facilitate the Arab- Israeli peace negotiations in a broader sense," said the source without elaboration.

The talks were held at Raghdan Palace in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Muhammad, Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, his Royal Highness Prince Talal, Royal Court chief Marwan al-Qasim and the ministers of foreign affairs, finance and industry and trade.

On the Qatari side, the meeting was attended by Finance Minister Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani and the Qatari ambassador to Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two sides "emphasised the need to continue their cooperation and coordination in order to crystallise a new vision of Arab solidarity on sound and clear basis."

The King conferred upon the Qatari Amir al-Husayn Bin-'Ali Medal and hosted a lunch in his honour.

The Qatari leader said the visit was an affirmation of the close ties between the two countries and voiced confidence that the visit would further enhance bilateral relations.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, the Qatari foreign minister, told Jordan Television that Qatar and Jordan were discussing the construction of a pipeline that would carry Qatari natural gas to the Kingdom and from here on to the Mediterranean.

Qatar has said it is ready to supply natural gas to Israel and officials from the two sides have met and discussed the issue.

The pipeline project "will be discussed at the economic summit in Amman," said Shaykh Jasim, referring to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled to be held here Oct. 29-31.

Shaykh Jasim will lead the Qatari delegation to the summit.

Envoy on Relations With Israel, West Bank, Syria

TA1309130495 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic

8 Sep 95 p 11

[Interview with Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, ambassador to Israel, by correspondents Mahir al-Shaykh and 'Isam al-Kurd; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-QUDS] There is criticism at Jordan's acceleration in normalizing relations with Israel. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] I do not agree with these statements about normalization in particular, or the peace process in general. If we look at the peace process we see that all the parties taking part in the peace process started in Madrid. This means that they committed themselves to the principle of a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the wake of this commitment, there is no room to talk about who signs first as long as everyone agrees that the solution should be a peaceful one and that what is necessary in order to reach such a solution is negotiation.

We were not the first signatories and we do not believe that we will be the last. Not only do we believe that all the tracks will culminate by reaching similar agreements, but we insist on that because if the solution is not comprehensive it will not be durable.

As for acceleration in the normalization process, I believe that the Jordanian-Israeli relationship is sustained to a large degree by the agreements stemming from the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, because this treaty was to some extent a general formula that did not address aspects of cooperation or what is now being called normalization. The relevant technical teams were left to follow up the agreements, which number more than 20, and finalize the details. I can say that the past nine months were utilized very well for the purpose of realizing the Jordanian interest in these agreements.

There are two agreements, in particular, which I believe will determine to a large extent the Jordanian-Israeli relationship. These are the trade and transport agreements. They will have an immensely positive impact not only on Jordan and Israel, but also on the West Bank. The transport agreement, for example, will allow regular bus

lines to operate between most Palestinian towns, including Jerusalem, and Jordanian towns.

As for the trade agreement, it will allow the development of commercial exchange with the West Bank also, and this is what has actually happened. For the first time since 1967, there is now two-way commercial movement between Jordan and the West Bank.

The agreements that we signed or are about to sign consumed a lot of time and were thoroughly examined, whereby we ensured Jordan's rights and the Jordanian interest. This took place with the cooperation and coordination of the Palestinian side, especially on matters in which the Palestinians have a role, most important of which are economic and commercial affairs. [passage omitted]

[AL-QUDS] The defection of General Husayn Kamil to Jordan created a rift in Jordanian-Egyptian relations. What is your comment on this and will this rift affect the convocation of the economic conference in Amman?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The tension in Jordanian-Egyptian relations was short-lived. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Jordan contributed to containing this tension. We in Jordan are very interested in maintaining excellent Jordanian-Egyptian relations.

We do not see ourselves competing with Egypt in any way. We do not believe that any gain for Jordan (the economic conference for example) should be at Egypt's expense or at the expense of any other Arab state. Jordan's policy in this respect is clear; namely, that our relations with Israel will not be at the expense of Jordanian-Arab relations. Jordan's periphery is Arab and its depth is Arab. This was true in the past and it remains so today.

[AL-QUDS] And how are Jordanian-Syrian relations?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Relations are good, but unfortunately since the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty there has been no contact or coordination with the Syrian side with regard to the peace process, although there are contacts on other issues. We hope that there will be coordination and we are ready to coordinate.

[AL-QUDS] What about relations with Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Our relations with the Gulf states are improving steadily. As you know, we are awaiting the visit by the Saudi foreign minister to Jordan. We hope that later the recent efforts will be crowned by a meeting between King Husayn and King Fahd. In fact, Jordanian-Saudi relations are developing continuously. As for our relations with the other Gulf states, they are

improving steadily and hope that in the near future they will be restored to their previous situation.

[AL-QUDS] How do you assess Jordanian-Palestinian relations?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Jordanian-Palestinian relations have never been as good as they are now. We realize that we are in the same trench and that it is in the interest of both sides to coordinate. I believe that this coordination is now much better than in the past. We always aspire to maintain a strong and special relationship. I am very satisfied with the development of affairs and their present status. The presence of a Jordanian representation in Gaza is the best example of the characteristic of Jordanian-Palestinian relations and of what Jordan seeks to offer to the Palestinians there. [passage omitted]

[AL-QUDS] When will King Husayn visit Israel?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The king's visit to Israel will be determined in light of the circumstances and conditions at the time. So far no date has been set for this visit.

IAF on Syrian-Turkish-Iranian Communique on Iraq

*JN1409090595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
14 Sep 95 pp 1, 29*

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Action Front [IAF] party issued a statement yesterday that highlights a Syrian-Turkish-Iranian communique. The communique was issued after a meeting that brought the foreign ministers of the three countries together in the wake of the defection of some Iraqi officials to Jordan.

The statement says: Severing links among the Arab and Muslim countries and keeping these countries fragmented is a strategic goal of Zionism and Western colonialism. This colonialism created problems between Iraq and Iran, Turkey and Syria, Iran and the Gulf, Iraq and Kuwait, Egypt and Sudan, Algeria and Morocco, and so forth. These problems could explode at any time. Moreover, dividing a certain country along sectarian, ideological, and racial lines is one of Zionism and colonialism's strategic goals in order to weaken and exhaust this country even more and to lay the groundwork for foreign interference. Many regimes complied with this wicked goal, which only serves the nation's enemies, although some shortsighted people mistakenly believe that it serves a national interest relating to rights and sovereignty.

The statement goes on to say: Rapprochement among Arab and Islamic countries and fostering relations

among them is part of our strategic perception of the conflict among nations. There is no other way for progress.

It adds: Comprehensive and complete Islam represents a creed, worship, and system of life. It united this nation and made it one nation. It turned its discrepancies into elements of cultural distinction, rather than elements of division and strife. Historical facts bear witness to the distinguished Arab and Islamic civilization to which all of the subjects of the Arab and Islamic state contributed.

Ban on Islamic Deputies' Preaching Overturned

JN1409103395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
14 Sep 95 pp 1, 29

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—
Khulayf al-Suhaymat, chief judge of the Higher Court

of Justice, issued a ruling yesterday canceling decisions by the minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs which banned Islamic movement deputies from preaching in mosques. The banned deputies included Dr. Dhib 'Abdallah, Dr. Ahmad al-Kawfahi, Sulayman al-Sa'd, Dr. Muhammad al-Hajj, Dayfallah al-Mumani, 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur, Hamzah Mansur, Dhib Anis, and Muhammad al-Khuraybat.

Lawyers Zuhayr Abu-al-Raghib and 'Adnan al-Rashdan had objected to the minister of awqaf's decision, saying that the parties who can ban a preacher from giving sermons and the legal measures that should be taken are specified in Article 7 of the Preaching and Guidance Law. They also contended that the law provides that the preacher should be interrogated upon a referral from the Ministry of Awqaf's secretary general and not the director.

Spanish Prime Minister on Regional Peace Process*NC1309174195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Felipe Gonzales left Beirut at 1600 today [13 September] after a six-hour working visit during which he held talks with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. The talks dealt with the Middle East peace process and the preparations for the Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona.

At the end of the visit Gonzales held a joint news conference with Prime Minister al-Hariri. Gonzales said the coming months will bear the hallmarks of a solution in the region, affirming that this solution will not wait until 1997, the year of the Israeli and U.S. elections. He added that the peace process is irreversible. Gonzales said the EU believes the peace process in the region enjoys important circumstances and potentials at this phase. He indicated that the EU pays special attention to the implementation of UN resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 425. He said the Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona will be a springboard for common issues between Europe and the Middle East and will put forward an initiative on the EU's foreign policy, which aims to promote peace in the Middle East.

Gonzales said Lebanon follows an open-door economic policy. Therefore, the potential for its cooperation with the EU is great. A committee will follow-up all matters. He said we have an agreement in principle with Lebanon on the reconstruction of Beirut's city center. This agreement will be translated in the near future into a signed document between Lebanon and the EU.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri denied that Lebanon's participation in the Barcelona conference is a tacit approval of Lebanon's participation in the multilateral talks. He said Lebanon's participation in the Barcelona conference is in its interest, noting that 50 percent of the EU's long-term loans and aid will be allocated to the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin.

Gonzalez Visit Detailed*LD1309154895 Madrid RNE International in Spanish
1300 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The peace process in the Middle East and bilateral relations were the topics of the visit that Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez paid to Lebanon today. This is the first visit by a head of government from a Western country for 25 years and the last leg of Gonzalez's Middle East tour. His talks with the Lebanese authorities also dealt with the preparations

for the Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona scheduled for next November, where the attendance of all the Mediterranean countries is sought. Our special correspondent Pedro Fernandez Cespedes reports:

[Fernandez Cespedes] Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who will end his Middle East tour in approximately an hour's time, was very cautious when it came to assessing the present stagnation of the peace process, which he nevertheless regards as irreversible. After this tour, the prime minister does not share the idea that there are more difficulties than before. From his talks in the past few days in Gaza, Jerusalem, Amman, Damascus, and Beirut, Felipe Gonzalez has the impression that all his interlocutors have the clear will to move forward in the peace process, and this is how he sees the immediate future:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] I think both sides are waiting for someone to take a step forward to unfreeze this situation. That would be the newsflash on how I have perceived this situation. The two sides are waiting for someone to take a step forward. Perhaps a third party will have to take that step forward, and in this case it would be the United States. [end recording]

[Fernandez Cespedes] At a joint news conference here in Beirut with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Felipe Gonzalez reaffirmed his confidence that a free, sovereign Lebanon will be an important contribution to the peace process and, in short, to the development and stability of the Mediterranean — the aim of the Barcelona conference. Lebanon will be present in November in Barcelona. Felipe Gonzalez announced the starting of the negotiations for a new EU-Lebanon association agreement.

The prime minister is ending his visit to Beirut by laying a floral tribute at the residence of our ambassador in Lebanon, in memory of Ambassador Pedro de Aristigui, who died in an attack here in Beirut in 1989.

Russian Defense Council Member Concludes Visit*NC1409063595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Marshal (Viktor Kolyakov), member of the Russian Higher Defense Council, has left Beirut for Moscow after a week-long visit during which he held talks with Lebanese officials. Minister of Refugee Affairs Walid Junblatt saw him off at the airport. Junblatt emphasized the strength of Lebanese-Russian relations. (Kolyakov) said he will work toward strengthening this friendship.

Hizballah's Nasrallah Rejects Peace With Israel

NC1409102795 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic* 0530 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During the rally held in Beirut yesterday afternoon to mark the martyrs of 13 September [the signing of the Declaration of Principles agreement and the killing of demonstrators in Beirut protesting the agreement], several leaders delivered speeches expressing their views on local and regional issues. Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah declared that no matter what the sacrifices, recognition of Israel is impossible.

Nasrallah emphasized that what happened on 13 September was an historic event that embodies a conflict between the black ink of oppression, treason, and humiliation, and the red blood dedicated to the nation's revival. There is a conflict, and what a conflict, between the black ink of treason and the red blood of the resistance.

Explaining the situation when the people took to the streets on 13 September, Nasrallah said we did this as an Islamic duty ordered by God and his prophet. It was not the first time the people were fired upon. The same thing happened on 17 May, 1983, when hero Muhammad Naji was martyred. Amin al-Jumayyil allowed the security forces to fire on the people as he was signing a treasonous agreement. However, those who fired on the people on 13 September did this while claiming they refuse the Black House agreement.

Speaking about the disadvantages of the 'Arafat agreement with the Zionists, Nasrallah said that this agreement ignored Palestine and Jerusalem and the talks currently focusing on Hebron. He said that we came out to the streets on 13 September to emphasize through our blood that what was going on was illegal and illegitimate and to establish the fact that if all the peoples of the world were to recognize Israel, we, the sons of Hizballah, would refuse to recognize it, even if we were to be cut into bits and pieces.

Nasrallah said that the recent displacement of thousands of Palestinians is a result of the Oslo agreement and the rotten regime in Libya. He said that this is not the first time al-Qadhdhafi has wronged Palestine and Jerusalem. Al-Qadhdhafi's great wrong was kidnapping Imam Musa al-Sadr. Nasrallah said:

[Begin Nasrallah recording] There is absolutely no one, Muslim or Arab, who has a right to sell one single grain of sand of Palestine's land, either to the Jews or to anyone else. [shouts of "God is great"]. We came to the streets to emphasize with our blood the illegitimacy and illegality of what was going on and to say to the whole world [sentence incomplete as heard]. We said this at the funeral of the martyrs and on the anniversary of the martyrs, that if the aim of killing us in the streets and if we are required to recognize Israel [pauses]. We may not be able to remove Israel at present but this does not mean that we should recognize it. I repeat in the name of the 13 September martyrs, brothers and sisters, in the name of all our dear martyrs, even if the whole world, all the world's governments, and, God forbid, if all the peoples of the world were to recognize Israel, we the sons of Hizballah and 'Abbas al-Musawi, would refuse to recognize Israel even if we were to be chopped into bits and pieces. [applause]

We came out into the streets realizing the magnitude of the dangers. We wanted to draw the attention of our nation to the magnitude of dangers which threaten not only Palestine, but also Lebanon and the whole region.

When we consider the results of the Oslo Agreement for Palestine, Lebanon, the region, and the Arab situation, in terms of this earthly world and the after world, all those who kept silent two years ago on 13 September — before their peoples and history and in the afterlife before God and the martyrs — all those who kept silent two years ago, not to mention those who plotted, will be accountable for all the repercussions of the Oslo Agreement currently taking place in the region. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Paper Praises Madrid's Peace Role, Ties

JN1309182395 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0730 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 13 Sep (SANA) — AL-THAWRAH says that Israel has aborted the Madrid conference and diverted it from the course which was laid down there. In a commentary today under the headline "Madrid is in Damascus' Heart," written by Dr. Fayiz al-Sa'igh, director general of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, the paper adds that from the first moments of the Madrid conference, Israel tried to foil the conference and create political circumstances that would harm this city, which has become the city of peace, after all parties agreed on its selection and after world public opinion was unanimous on its position and status.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Madrid's role became greater within the framework of the EU and the new world consensus on selecting Barcelona as the venue for the world economic conference which will convene there in November. This conference will convene amid strong world concern to render this conference a success and to turn it into a new starting point for bilateral and collective cooperation between the Mediterranean basin countries and the EU.

AL-THAWRAH notes that peace has many aspects in our region, the most important of which is the political aspect, which is linked with land and rights; and then come the other aspects, including the economic aspects. Therefore, real peace is the peace that is in harmony with legitimacy and which abides by implementing its resolutions in letter and spirit. Israel must withdraw from the land, first, and recognize rights so that real and lasting peace will be established. Then, the other aspects will be discussed in a serious way.

AL-THAWRAH praises Spain's role in the peace process, reaffirming that its role is important, particularly through its presidency of the EU, in addition to the historic heritage between the Arabs and Spaniards. The paper notes that Madrid, which hosted the peace conference, presented to the world a shining picture of the friendly Spanish people and proved that it is the lofty city which receives guests with hospitality. The people of this city were not affected by the rancor which was hidden in the souls of those who then refused to see Madrid as the capital of peace and who attacked peace from its land. The paper adds that this was not strange for the Israeli delegation

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Madrid will continue to remember those who went to it and returned with love in their hearts and those who left it filled with rancor.

'Effective' European Role in Peace Process Urged

JN1309145095 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0715 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 13 Sep (SANA) — The newspaper TISHRIN welcomes the visit of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. It notes that this visit acquires added importance given that Gonzalez is president of the European Union and is carrying out a mission on behalf of the European Union to discuss means of advancing the peace process and enhancing the European role in it.

The newspaper points out: Since 1970, Syria has called, through President Hafiz al-Asad, for an effective and influential European role in the Middle East, given the historical ties between Europe and the Arab world and the interdependence of their interests. This call was also made in light of Europe's understanding of the Middle East causes represented in its call for the implementation of Security Council resolutions, respect for the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, and Israel's full withdrawal from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967.

The paper further adds: Syria has consistently sought to involve Europe in the efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly the Madrid conference. However, Israel prevented such involvement when it rejected any European role on the pretext that this would give the Madrid conference an international character.

The newspaper says: Israel rejected a European role because it does not have sufficient means of pressure to cause Europe to deviate from the principles of right and justice and Security Council resolutions, whereas it can greatly influence the U.S. position through the Zionist lobby, which has strong clout in the Congress and the influential political circles.

TISHRIN asserts: A greater and wider European role, which Syria has continuously advocated, must go beyond rhetoric and wishes to actual participation, especially since the peace process is threatened with suspension as a result of Israel's practices and the obstacles and hurdles it deliberately places before the opportunities to achieve a just, comprehensive, and genuine peace.

Concluding, the paper says: While expressing its full readiness for cooperation with Europe on all levels, Syria cannot forget that Spain has a special status with regard to Syria and all Arabs, because there are many links between Spain and the Arab world. Undoubtedly, Gonzalez's visit will further this direction. The Spanish prime minister will find full response from Syria. For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The European countries have realized the danger posed to Europe,

particularly those parts bordering the Mediterranean, due to the continued deterioration in the Middle East peace process. This perception of the truth has spurred a European move that might come to fruition if the Europeans seek to crystallize their independent decision based on facts that would bolster the economic, political, and social links between Europe and the Arab world in particular.

In a commentary published today, the newspaper maintains: Though slow, the European move marks a real beginning of a serious and influential position in favor of a just, enduring, and comprehensive peace in the Arab region and that part of it bordering the Mediterranean.

AL-BA'TH adds: If Israel seeks to evade peace by its refusal to implement the international Security Council resolutions and the Madrid conference initiative, represented by the land-for-peace principle, Europe's experience makes it reject occupation and evasion of responsibility in front of the international community and the will of the world peace forces.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH notes that the European countries will not have their independence and economic impregnability as long as tension prevails in the Mediterranean basin and as long as Israel receives encouragement and support for its aggression and criminal policies based on fables derived from allegations and legends rejected by mankind.

AL-THAWRAH underscores the importance of Arab-European relations, which are witnessing remarkable development for the sake of the people residing in the

Mediterranean basin. This development, the paper adds, is based on an historic heritage of cultural transactions, coexistence, and interaction. In today's editorial, the paper notes that developing relations among countries in the Mediterranean basin is particularly important under the current international changes which force the countries bordering the Mediterranean to search for cooperation mechanisms in all fields — mechanisms that are beyond the existing frameworks represented by bilateral relations.

AL-THAWRAH says: Strengthening cooperation between the Mediterranean states has many advantages which will help all parties benefit from a European-Arab Mediterranean edifice. The paper adds that countries will benefit from such an edifice by developing their economy through scientific cooperation and exchange of expertise and benefits.

AL-THAWRAH adds that continuous development calls for providing the requirements of stability and peace. It also calls for adopting an effective and independent European stand to support the peace process and reinforce its bases and opportunities of success.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH expresses hope that the Barcelona conference will open the door for new relations between Europe and the Mediterranean states and that the European countries will benefit from the opportunity to support the peace process and embark on an effective role which Israel has been trying to rule out since the Madrid conference.

Afghanistan**Official Denies Rabbani's Family Left Peshawar***LD1109100795 Tehran IRNA in English
0914 GMT 11 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 11, IRNA — An Afghan official Monday [10 September] denied reports appeared in Pakistani print media saying that Borhanoddin Rabbani's family have left the city of Peshawar.

A senior official of Jam'iyat-e Eslami (Islamic Society) party of Afghanistan, led by Borhanoddin Rabbani, told IRNA in here Monday that the president's family had not moved to other places.

Islamabad-Kabul ties strained after the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was attacked last Wednesday.

The media in Pakistan reported that Kabul state radio, controlled by Rabbani, has staged anti-Pakistani propaganda in recent days accusing Islamabad of interfering in internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Afghan officials claimed that Taleban forces received financial and military support from Pakistan in their recent attacks on southwestern areas, especially in the seizure of Shindand air base and the city of Herat.

Minister Addresses 'Uprising' Started in Herat*LD1309195095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The citizens of Kabul held a meeting today in the Ministry of Internal Affairs to condemn the shameless aggression by the Pakistanis in the southwestern region.

The meeting was attended by esteemed Mohammad Yonis Qanuni, acting minister of defense and head of the Kabul city security commission; members of the security commission; a number of government employees; and ulema, students, ward representatives, elders, traders, and a large number of Kabul citizens.

The meeting began after the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran. Esteemed Mohammad Yonis Qanuni then spoke in detail about the aggression and interference of the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] in the internal affairs of our country. Esteemed Qanuni gave assurance that, as Afghan history reveals, every foreign aggression against Afghan territory is doomed to failure, and the aggression by Pakistan's intelligence service will also be doomed to decisive defeat by the power of faith and the will of the mujahedin.

The uprising against the aggressors has already started in Herat and, God willing, the rest of Herat will soon

be cleared of the filth of the aggressors by the mujahedin's victory in other parts of Herat. Furthermore, the jihadi commanders and mujahedin in Helmand, Farah, and Qandahar Provinces are now ready to force the mercenary militia out of their sacred land and clear the sanctity of the country of the aliens' filth. [passage omitted]

Government Ready To Deter 'Imminent' Taleban Attack*BK1409011295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1727 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Sept 13 (AFP) — The government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani announced Wednesday [13 September] night that an attack on the Afghan capital by the Taleban Islamic students militia was "imminent."

Defense ministry spokesman Abdollah said in a statement that "400 Pakistani mercenaries" had arrived at Maydan Shahr, about 35 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Kabul and that the government expected an attack here within hours.

The statement, distributed to western journalists in Kabul, also said that government forces were ready to block the joint offensive by the Taleban and the Pakistanis.

Islamabad has always denied charges that it has interfered in the war between the various Afghan factions.

Frontline forces of the Taleban and Rabbani exchanged heavy fire in Logar province earlier Wednesday, witnesses there said.

Facing the Taleban in Logar province are formidable defences along the pro-Rabbani frontline, including tanks, multi-barrel rocket launchers and heavy calibre artillery guns.

These heavy weapons were active Wednesday, with the fighting concentrated around a village in the no-man's land to the north of the main public highway, where plumes of smoke and debris could be seen rising with each massive explosion.

From their trenches just metres from the main road, Taleban heavy machine guns were seen firing at the pro-Rabbani positions.

Last week, the Taleban scored a major victory against Rabbani when they captured three western provinces - Nimroz, Farah and Herat - in as many days.

The Taleban dismissed as "lies" Kabul government allegations of Pakistani military support for their success.

Mullah Malik, who said he formerly belonged to the mujahedin faction Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of

Yunus Khalis, asserted the Taliban were "one hundred percent confident" that they would capture Kabul once the order was given.

Samangan Province Said Captured by Government
LD1309205095 Tehran IRNA in English
1838 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 13, IRNA — An official at the Afghan consulate in Peshawar said Wednesday [13 September] that government forces in Afghanistan after two days of fighting have succeeded in taking control of several areas around Darrah Suf in the western part of Samangan Province on Tuesday.

He said many soldiers fighting for General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, leader of the 'Jombesh-e Melli Afghanistan (National Movement of Afghanistan), had been killed or wounded.

The province of Samangan is in northern Afghanistan and parts of it and especially Aibak the seat of the province is under control Dostam's troops.

However, a source with the Jombesh-e Melli has rejected the report saying nothing new had happened.

Independent sources say they have no news whatsoever in that relation.

In related news from Bamian province, central Afghanistan, several clashes have been reported especially in the Yakavallang district between forces in favour of and opposed to President Borhanuddin Rabbani.

India

Radio Sees 'Great Significance' in U.S. Talks
BK1409064995 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Commentary by defense analyst K. Subramanayam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The India-U.S. talks now taking place in Washington are an offshoot of the agreed minutes signed between the Indian Minister of State for Defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, and the visiting U.S. Defense Secretary, Mr. William Perry, in January this year. The Indian side is headed by the Defense Secretary, Mr. K.A. Nambiar, while the U.S. team is led by the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Mr. Joseph Nye. The teams on both sides include officials from defense and foreign ministries. The purpose of this discussion is to develop a better mutual understanding between the two sides on major international security issues to ensure more fruitful and effective cooperation between the armed forces of the countries.

The United States, as the foremost global power, collects an enormous amount of intelligence on developments in various parts of the world using the most sophisticated techniques. However, assessment of the the intelligence collected and development of optimal policies based on those assessments require a balanced understanding of different civilizations and cultures. The U.S. academia and media have vast opportunities to interact with like-minded nations like Western Europeans and other allied nations and client states, who often reflect views to devise self-serving benefits from their interactions with the United States. They use to call themselves allies of the United States in the developing world during the Cold War period. The U.S. policy makers did not have adequate opportunities to interact with independent minded large nonaligned democratic nations like India, except in a structured environment like the United Nations. The Cold War perceptivity also distorted the perceptions of leading Cold War participants who tended to view that those were not with them were against them.

The post-Cold War international environment provides an opportunity for both the United States and Indian strategic establishments to understand each other's concern better in a polycentric world. International terrorism, threats to international stability arising out of religious fundamentalism, ethnic nationalism, spread of small arms, narcotics traffic and narco-terrorism illustrate the kind of issues, which have emerged as a fallout of the Cold War and are of mutual concern to both India and the United States. Asia will see in the next two decades the emergence of a number of major powers. Against this background, the talks in Washington between the two countries assume great significance.

Kashmir Government Said in Touch With Kidnappers

BK1309160695 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government is in contact with the abductors of the four foreign tourists through some intermediaries. An official spokesman said in Srinagar today that the government is trying to persuade them to release the kidnapped tourists without any delay. He denied that any foreign trekkers were kidnapped in the Zaskar area of Ladakh region. The spokesman said the trekkers were held up in the area because of the closure of Padam-Kargil Road.

Government Spokesman Reports Hostages 'Safe'*BK1309141795 Hong Kong AFP in English
1409 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Sept 13 (AFP) — The Indian authorities said Wednesday [13 September] that they had been in contact with a Muslim separatist group holding four Western tourists in Kashmir and reiterated a call for the release of the hostages.

"There was contact with Al-Faran late Tuesday," said K.B. Jindyal, a Kashmir government spokesman.

"The hostages are reported to be safe and we are hopeful of pursuing the contact on Thursday," he told reporters in this Kashmir summer capital. "The contact was made through intermediaries."

"So far as the government is concerned, we want a peaceful resolution to the issue," the spokesman said.

Al-Faran, which seized five Western tourists in early July and killed one of the hostages last month, had been last in contact with the authorities on Saturday.

Al-Faran seized Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and American Don Hutchings, 42, on July 4 near the Kashmir trekking resort of Pahalgam, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of here.

Four days later, the group kidnapped Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, and German Dirk Hasert, 26. Ostro was beheaded by the kidnappers and his body found near a remote Kashmir village on August 13.

Al-Faran has been insisting on the release of 15 imprisoned Muslim militants but the Indian authorities have ruled out a prisoner-for-hostage swap. [passage omitted]

Police Chief's Father Shot; Hostage Link Studied*BK1409071995 Hong Kong AFP in English
0655 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Sept 14 (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen shot dead the father of the police officer in charge of the Kashmir district where four Western tourists were abducted two months ago, police said Thursday [14 September].

Ghulam Ahmed Shah, the father of Mohammed Amin Shah, the superintendent of police in Anantnag district, was shot dead at the family home in the village of Madora late Wednesday, police said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack and it was not immediately clear if the slaying was linked to the hostage crisis.

Mohammed Amin Shah investigated the July abductions of the four Western tourists until the case was taken over

by state government authorities in this Kashmir summer capital.

He was also involved in securing the release of two Britons kidnapped in the same area last year by another Moslem separatist group. The pair were released unharmed after 17 days in captivity.

Two Britons, an American, a Norwegian and a German were abducted by the Moslem separatist group Al-Faran in early July near the Himalayan trekking resort of Pahalgam in Anantnag district.

The Norwegian hostage, Hans-Christian Ostro of Oslo, was beheaded last month by the militants, who are demanding the release of 15 imprisoned Moslem rebels.

The Indian authorities have ruled out a prisoner-for-hostage swap and have called repeatedly on the militants to release the hostages.

A government spokesman here said Wednesday that authorities had been in contact with Al-Faran late Tuesday.

"The hostages are reported to be safe and we are hopeful of pursuing the contact on Thursday," said K.B. Jindyal, a Kashmir government spokesman. "The contact was made through intermediaries."

Al-Faran seized Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and American Don Hutchings, 42, on July 4. Ostro, 27, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, were seized four days later.

More than 12,000 people have died since 1989 in a Moslem separatist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

Article Urges Modernization of Defense Forces*BK0709142895 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi
2 Sep 95 p 6*

[Article by B.B. Sharma: "Our Defense Status as Reflected in the Mirror of War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the callousness with which our government is neglecting the defense forces — causing a speedy deterioration in their capacity to defend our country — it can be painfully surmised that India is likely to taste a humiliating defeat in the event of an armed confrontation with Pakistan. The advancement of weapons systems, the development of indigenous defense projects, and the influx of defense equipment badly needed by our Army have been brought to a sudden standstill by a lack of resources. With the meager salaries and inadequate facilities offered by the government, fewer youths are willing to join the Army now.

The steady deterioration in human and military resources has had an adverse affect on the morale of our defense forces. The lack of political will and funding that led to the stalling of our "Agni" and "Prithvi" missile projects has caused widespread despair in our Defense Research and Development Organization. Our nuclear submarine development project and the project to manufacture light warplanes have been brought to a grinding halt. Except for its Mirage 2000 and MiG-29, our Air Force has only obsolete transport planes and helicopters. The rest of its equipment is already outdated. The condition of our surface-to-surface missiles and radar network is no different. Sadly, there is no hope of replacing them with the latest planes and equipment. The purchase of the Advanced Jet Trainer is still pending.

On the other hand, Pakistan is likely to receive the latest warplanes. If an armed confrontation takes place, Pakistan will have already received the Airborne Warning and Control System [AWACS] from Saudi Arabia. The addition of this equipment will tremendously enhance the strike capacity of the Pakistani Air Force. With these new possessions, it will be able to prevail over India's numerical superiority in planes. In the event of war, therefore, Pakistan is likely to take control of India's skies easily.

Our surface missiles and radar network are currently deployed close to our border and form our front line. They are likely to be an easy target for Pakistani air strikes, which would render the Indian Air Force almost innocuous. In view of such a possibility, it is essential to replace old planes with the latest ones as well as to procure the AWACS. This system is capable of tracing enemy planes even at very low altitude. The Indian Air Force is currently unable to do this. Unfortunately, a lack of funds has stalled the manufacture of similar planes domestically.

The Air Force also urgently requires midair refueling capability. Otherwise, how can our planes reach the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are about 1,600 km away from the mainland? We cannot provide air security for our planes traveling to such distant reaches of our territory. Moreover, the massive Il-76 heavy transport plane cannot land there because the runway on the islands is too small. It is therefore essential to have midair refueling capability to provide cover to these islands in an emergency. As a matter of fact, the lack of fuel and the nonavailability of AWACS planes severely limits our Air Force.

As for the condition of our Navy, we currently have only 12 submarines. In 1980, we had 22. Even the remaining submarines are no match for the French

Agosta and Dauphin class submarines of the Pakistani Navy. Pakistan also has the top class Sub-Harpoon submarine [as published]. India has nothing to match them at present. In modern warfare it is essential to have submarines with a long strike range. India has nothing of the kind. All the submarines in India's possession must surface for oxygen, which exposes them to enemy attack. Our Navy needs to replace many of its old ships with the latest ones, but thus far arrangements have only been made to replace a few of them. Even the work to preserve our existing fleet is behind schedule. The overall situation with our Navy is far from satisfactory.

In direct contrast, Pakistan seems to be receiving a huge amount of the latest highly-advanced weapons from the Clinton administration. The Clinton administration has even asked the U.S. Senate to circumvent the Pressler law in Pakistan's case and approve the transfer of \$368 million worth of highly destructive weapons. Despite the Pressler law's provisions, the U.S. Administration is itching to supply Pakistan with three P-3C's, its latest naval reconnaissance plane; 28 Harpoon missiles; 36 AIM-91 Sidewinder missiles; artillery weapons; and a huge quantity of ammunition.

The P-3C has a 7,410-km strike range and a 76.1 km per hour flying speed. This plane's weapons include the most deadly missiles. It is the latest in reconnaissance planes but is equally useful in dogfights because of its vast destructive capacity. The Harpoon missiles have a 130-km strike range and a speed of Mach 0.9. Equipped with the Type 227 homing radar, it can attack land targets with devastating effect.

After it receives these weapons, Pakistan's qualitative superiority will far exceed India's numerical superiority, and the Pakistani Navy will be able to challenge the most advanced naval forces in the world. Then, penetrating up to 3,500 km into Indian seas or even from far away, it will be able to blast Indian targets very conveniently. India's outdated Sea Harrier Aircraft and old ships will be of little use Against this deadly attack, for the P-3C is truly deadly and devastating. India has no plane that can be equipped with the same missiles or has the reconnaissance capability of the P-3C. To face the P-3C, India badly needs AWACS to receive warning of attacks and be ready for aerial attack on the seas.

Such defense problems have begun to surface because we do not have a separate defense minister that can forcefully plead for our defense needs before the government and procure the needed materiel and equipment. In the modern perspective, such a vacuum is suicidal for a country's defense. At present our Defense Ministry is just an extension of our prime minister's Secretariat, which always settles the Defense Ministry's disputes

with the Finance Ministry in favor of the latter. This is the reason that dozens of important projects have been gathering dust for years. Included among these are the formation of 12 Corps to patrol the Indian-Pakistani border, the improvement of the T-22 [as published] tank's infrared vision system, and the enhancement of the Army's organizational strength.

Unfortunately, the political party in power only cares about the next general election and is callously neglecting the need to modernize our Army. As a result, we are steadily losing our military capacity. Perhaps our government is showing indifference to our defense requirements because the progressively deteriorating law and order situation in Pakistan leads it to believe that Pakistan is in no condition to launch a war. Our government must realize, however, that Pakistan is leaving no stone unturned to equip its Army with the latest weapons. It will wait for its domestic turmoil to subside before launching an all-out war against us. Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has already threatened that Pakistan could start a nuclear war over the Kashmir issue. The Indian Government should consider the gravity of the situation. Taking a clue from Pakistan's frenetic defense preparations, it should speedily modernize the Army. India should start taking adequate measures to equip its Army right now to avoid the hapless situation of being ill-prepared for possible war against Pakistan in four or five years. We must learn a lesson from our humiliating defeat by China in 1962, which was caused primarily by a lack of weapons and other military equipment. We must keep our Army well-equipped and well-trained for any possible confrontation and avoid a repetition of that rancorous war.

Daily Views Economy, 'Inflationary Situation'

BK1309063095 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
in English 12 Sep 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Deceptive Buoyancy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Reserve Bank annual report for 1994-95 carries a broad hint that the Indian economy is doing reasonably well except where the government's financial profligacy continues unabated. There is thus a mixture of optimism at an expected 5.5 per cent growth in the gross domestic product, and a mounting indebtedness which causes an outgo of 52 per cent of revenue earnings through annual debt servicing. The RBI [Reserve Bank of India] expresses satisfaction at an 8.4 per cent growth in industrial production and more than 4 per cent in agricultural output. Taken together with the current 29 per cent increase in exports, the buoyancy in the economy becomes self-evident. Normally, these positive factors should have led to a revenue buoyancy high enough

to enable the government to take lesser recourse to new borrowings. But the RBI report points out that the government plans to borrow more than Rs 27,000 crore, compared to the Rs 20,000 crore last year. Although details are not readily available, it may be assumed that the government's additional obligations consequent on projected payment of interim relief following the Pay Commission recommendations and DA [Daily Allowance] adjustment for wage and pension to catch up with the inflation rate would be substantial for the year. Even so, the basic question remains: Has the government found a way to reduce the non-Plan expenditure to make an impact on the inflationary situation and the fiscal deficit?

The answer clearly is: no. And, for reasons no longer difficult to understand. After four years of reforms the Indian economy is on a growth path which is increasingly becoming indistinguishable from the Latin American approach. Under this, a reasonably free private sector flourishes singly or in conjunction with foreign investors to sustain a high rate of growth but at the cost of high inflation and expanding penury. What such an economy cannot conceal is the structural settlement of islands of prosperity in a sea of poverty. Politically, the government of the day is obliged to borrow increasingly to expand social security programmes. It ends up with borrowing more to repay loans and is left with a shrinking budget to fund what it had borrowed for. By pointing out the twin evils of high fiscal deficit and steep inflation, the RBI has issued to the Finance Ministry a timely warning. The expected GDP growth of 5.5 per cent may even rise to 8 or 10 per cent in the coming years with foreign investment in sectors that have a short gestation period. Such statistical delight can be welcome only to politicians whose ability to understand the needs of India will remain dubious. No high growth is worth its salt unless the economy is firmly held under the reins. The first requirement for this is to cut fiscal deficit and bring down the inflation rate. Today's politicians who were with the RBI earlier used to prescribe the same medicine.

Party Spokesmen React to Cabinet Reshuffle

BK1309130295 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, has said the reconstitution of Council of Ministers will enhance the image of the party. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said minority communities have been adequately represented. About the restructuring of the party, Mr. Gadgil said it will be done in a day or two as the process has started.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] spokesman, Mr. K.L. Sharma, said the reshuffle does not convey any message about the prime minister's intention to give his government a clean image.

Article Forecasts Party's Fall From Power in Bengal
95AS0464C Calcutta SAPTAHIK BARTAMAN
in Bengali 22 JUL 95 pp 9-11

[Article by Debashis Bhattacharya: "Will CPM Survive the Jolt of the Municipal Elections?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] About a week before the election of the Calcutta corporation I asked Foreign Minister Pranab Mukhopadhyay [Mukherjee]—"In your opinion how many seats will Congress win in the Calcutta corporation election?" Congress party leader Pranab is very good in this type of analysis. He replied, "If Congress can win 15 seats in areas like Behala, Garden Reach (excepting Jadavpur), then we may win 65 to 67 seats. That will be good." In reply to a similar question Somen Mitra, President of state Congress party said, "If no serious upheaval takes place, Congress will win in 60 to 65 seats." I asked him, "Then Congress is fighting the election with a mentality of being defeated?" Somen replied, "It is not a mentality of defeatism, rather it is a preparation to move forward." If the first boy of a school suddenly becomes second in the test examination, then he will work harder to regain his position in the final examination. The corporation election is a test examination — a preparatory stage for the final examination. In that case the 'first boy' has always pressure and the 'second boy' tries more hard to surpass the first boy. After the win of Congress in 66 seats in Calcutta corporation election, the comments of leaders like Pranab and Somen have become relevant. Eighteen year old new voters grew up knowing Jyoti Bosu as the Chief Minister and Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPM] as the party of the ruler. Now, the defeat of CPM in elections one after another raised some questions in their minds about the future of the party. In a simple term it can be said that the election results of the Calcutta corporation prove that a large section of the new voters of 18 years of age has rejected CPM. Those who were born and grew up in the rule of CPM party have also expressed their firm opinion against that party. They also want to put an end to CPM rule. Apart from all other factors, the rejection of these new voters is a dangerous indication for CPM. Because, the rate of growth of CPM support is below the rate of increase of new voters. The statistics came out of the recent municipal elections of the state suggest that if Congress can win 3 to 5 percent more votes, that means 30 to 50 more votes in every thousand voters, CPM can be ousted from power in the state. The coming [1996] assembly elections of

the state are now being played on this statistics and calculation. Needless to say that CPM leaders are aware of this reality. The party leaders of Alimuddin Street know it well that how people are looking for an opportunity to teach the party a lesson for its corruption and bad administration. So, the party has to take the course of using force and corruption to win elections. CPM has an organized election machinery as well as they enjoy the support of loyal employees of police, administration and other organizations. By using all these supports, CPM had been winning elections. But in the recent municipal elections, they bitterly realized that every game has a time to end. A game cannot be played repeatedly in the same strategy and votes cannot be bought in the same manner. If people want a change, it will happen. Due to that reason, after losing control over the municipalities in the CPM strongholds of Chuchura, Chandannagore etc. they used all the means of terrorism, false voting, malpractice in counting in the elections in Calcutta. In spite of all of these means, not only CPM but the Left Front as a whole failed to get an absolute majority in the Calcutta corporation. Now the idealist comrade leaders have to appease the winning independent candidates, whose names were in once included in the criminal list, for support to remain in power. In the first election of Salt Lake municipality, CPM won the election, but the seat difference with Congress is four. It is now clear that had the false voting machinery of CPM not worked properly, the result of Salt Lake election might have been different. Now the writing on the wall is clear — CPM is in a difficult situation. The sound of their funeral bell is heard. But everything depends on circumstances. Election is after all a game of different type of chemistry. The change of color depends of different type of chemical reaction. Now, we are to see that how many paths are open to CPM. To win the next election CPM has to follow a definite course of action. Let us discuss them one by one. Firstly, let us consider the possibility of taking the path of terrorism and how far this can get success. From the experience of recent elections, it was seen that in spite of taking all the roads of terrorism, riggings and malpractice, CPM did not get success. From early morning, voters went to the polling stations to cast their votes to prove that CPM did not have popular support in the urban area. In the afternoon, in spite of all kinds of efforts CPM did not change the course of voting. Those who voted in that election will vote in the coming parliament and assembly elections. So, CPM should not be encouraged in the course of terrorism and malpractice. Moreover, there is difficulty to bring outside cadres in the general elections as those cadres will be busy in their own constituencies. It is, therefore, difficult to bring outside cadres as had been done in the recent elections in Calcutta, 24 Parganas and Salt Lake.

There is another important point; the Election Commission under the leadership of T.N.Seshan introduced the system of photo identity of voters which will also create obstacle for false voting. These are, of course, minus points for CPM. In the mathematics of winning elections, CPM has an important factor in their favor — the rural votes. It is fact that although CPM lost popular support in urban areas, their vote bank in the rural areas is still very strong. It has been noticed that CPM candidates won recent elections by the support of rural voters. The constituencies which have a mixed area of rural and urban centers, it is noticed that CPM trails behind Congress in the urban centers. In the rural areas, CPM gets more votes. But the analysis of results of the recent municipal elections indicates that it cannot be taken so certainly that rural votes will go fully in favor of CPM. The rural or half-rural areas which have been included in municipal areas by the CPM government to ensure victory in the elections, the voting pattern in those areas is not encouraging for CPM. If the calculation of CPM worked, then they would not have been defeated in Chandannagore and Chuchura and Congress should not have been won 12 seats out of 18 in Behala. Even Congress did better in Garden Reach area than the last election. These results indicate that not in the urban area alone, CPM is also losing its base in the adjacent rural areas. So, there is a possibility that the present current of voting pattern can affect the rural areas. That will mean that the difference between the urban and rural votes will decrease. The number of defeats of CPM may increase. Another important finding of the recent Calcutta corporation election is that CPM does no longer have monopoly of Muslim votes. Since the Ayodhya affairs of 92 to the abuse of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act [TADA], the Muslim community, especially the Urdu-speaking, were angry with Congress. This Muslim anger caused defeat to Congress not only in West Bengal but in other states also. But the recent Calcutta corporation election showed that the Muslim votes are again coming back to Congress. There may be debate on the point that how far Mamata Bannerji's campaign against TADA contributed this change. But the change of Muslim votes is a cause of anxiety to CPM. Now the question is how CPM will handle these obstacles. Firstly, they can make the election a farce by taking course of shameless terrorism. They can at random cast false votes and take fraudulent course in vote counting. The same thing they did in these municipal elections and even in Calcutta. Whatever the Supreme Court says or Mr. Seshan acts in the election commission, it is very difficult to hide it from the vigilant eyes of news media. Can they take that kind of open risk? Secondly, the CPM bosses can bring some eye-catching new programs in governmental and party level to im-

press the voters. CPM leaders and ministers can increase their public relations activities to make them acceptable to the urban voters. They can try to say that they have not become separated from the people. But what have the people have experienced for 18 years, it is very difficult to change that with cheap gimmick. Thirdly, CPM will increase their anti-Congress campaign and try to portray Congress rule of Siddhartha Shankar Ray government of 1972 as a ruthless rule and how democracy was suppressed in the days of emergency period. The objective of this campaign is to bring back the voters of the new generation. But the shadow of the crisis is there also. In spite of that kind of campaign before the Calcutta corporation election, Congress gained the single party majority in the corporation. It is good luck for CPM that the other parties of the left front were allied with them. Otherwise, they could have faced a great misfortune. Besides all these issues, an important question still remains — what will Congress do? It was said at the beginning that election is a tactical chemistry. There one party's existence depends to a large extent on the role of the other party. Therefore, the question whether CPM will be able to withstand the jolt of the municipal elections will depend largely on the future actions of Congress. The election machinery of CPM is still stronger than Congress or any other party. In spite of that factionalism is growing inside CPM like Congress. The CPM leadership now openly acknowledges sabotage in the election. Just imagine that in the north Calcutta ward of Amar Bhattacharya, once a powerful leader of CPM now turned to a party bad boy. A CPM female candidate lost the election by only two votes. This type of factional rivalry within CPM will increase in the coming days. Because, everyone in the party from top leaders to ordinary workers are concerned about the coming danger. In the circumstances, rivalry, lack of discipline and charges against the party leadership will grow inside the party. If Congress now wants to take the advantage of the situation, then it must have to be united in the real sense of the term. Until now no such indication to that direction is visible. If the major opposition party Congress failed to establish itself as a disciplined united party; if any Congress leader's honesty is questioned in the anti-CPM movement and if they failed to earn the confidence and trust of the people as an alternative governing force, it would be too much to expect that CPM would be ousted from power by simply negative votes. If such a thing happens, it will be a short-lived one. The present circumstance is difficult for CPM, but more important for Congress is to project itself as a united party.

Iran

Israeli Efforts Against Russian Nuclear Deal Viewed

Rabin Said 'To Drive Home' Opposition

LD1309175395 Tehran IRNA in English
1050 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA — A morning daily in its Wednesday's [13 September] issue felt assured that the Israeli prime minister will fail to persuade Moscow to disrupt the deal on supply of nuclear reactors to Iran.

The English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial said, "The Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrives in Moscow today. According to Dan Orian, a senior Israeli official, Rabin in Moscow will drive home his opposition to the supply of reactors to Iran."

"In fact, Rabin's masters, who claim to be the only superpower in the world, have already tried this and failed. Before Clinton's visit to Moscow in May this year, the U.S. officials and media were cocksure that they could convince Russians to withhold the supply of nuclear reactor to Iran, however the Russians followed their own independent line in foreign policy, not bowing to the U.S. bullying and blackmail," the paper added.

The daily further pointed out that, "It is obvious that, despite being in a transitory stage in the process of nation-building and its need for Washington's financial assistance, Russia has decided not to submit to the U.S. pressure."

"Israel, which is virtually an appendix of the United States, must not burn its finger as its master has repeatedly tried, but failed," the editorial stressed.

'TEHRAN TIMES' added, "Israel's animosity against Iran stems from Iran's rational stance toward the illegitimate, expansionist entity. Nevertheless, the Israeli officials should bear in mind that while their masters fail to isolate Iran in international arena, Tel Aviv is not in a position to sabotage other countries' relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The daily also said, "The Israeli attempt to block Russia's deal with Iran is a flagrant interference in other countries' internal affairs, defying the U.N. Charter. Someone should somehow make the Israelis understand that Iran's access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes is none of their business."

"Surely, Rabin will receive a rebuff in Moscow. The world today views Moscow as a reliable trade partner, and Moscow, in turn, should not undermine this positive attitude," the editorial concluded.

Israel To Follow U.S. 'Glaring Defeat'

LD1409125595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1008 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the Zionist's regime, has arrived in Russia for a one-day visit. During the visit, while discussing Moscow-Tel Aviv ties, Yitzhaq Rabin will try to encourage Russia to restrict its cooperation with Iran.

Before leaving Ukraine for Moscow, in an interview with correspondents, the prime minister of the Zionist's regime announced that he will use all his efforts to dissuade Moscow from its nuclear cooperation with Iran. In response, before Rabin's arrival in Moscow, the Russian deputy energy minister announced that the Russian authorities are standing firm on their decisive stance to cooperate with Iran and that he will emphasize the stance when meeting Rabin.

After the U.S.'s widespread efforts to muddle the Iranian-Russian cooperation protocol, which resulted in a glaring defeat for the White House, it does not seem that the Zionist's regime will be able to achieve any gains in this direction.

Following a short period since the disintegration of the Soviet Union when Russia was strongly influenced by Western policies, especially those of the United States, to lose its international position as an effective power at the international arena, it is now trying by reviewing its policies to regain its effective role. In this regard, by following an independent policy free from views imposed by the United States, Russia is trying to take steps toward pursuing its own interests on various issues, including the Middle Eastern issues. The establishment of ties between Russia and Iran and the mutual cooperation between the two countries, in forms of bilateral, regional, and international cooperation, are also formed on this basis.

Therefore, foreign factors that want to disrupt these ties have not so far gained any victories, as the United States was unable to force Moscow to restrict its cooperation with Iran, through promising economic support. Therefore, political experts believe that the Zionist's regime, which has no alternative proposal to Moscow for Moscow-Tehran ties and cannot also offer a favorable concession to Moscow to sever ties with Iran, will not achieve results from its efforts, similar to those of the White House, to muddle Iranian-Russian ties.

At present, all the Zionists' efforts are centered on causing apprehension in Russia over the occurrence

of Islamic movements in that country and portraying them as a threat to Moscow, and by linking the Islamic movements to Iran, thereby encouraging Moscow to limit its ties with Tehran.

Recently, Islamic groups which have come to the surface in Russia, have declared their intention to participate in the future elections. There is a tendency in Russian to establish democracy; such an occurrence is a natural trend. These groups will operate within the framework of Russian laws and will play their role in Russian society in proportion to their positions. A move in this direction is not only not considered a threat to Russia, but strengthens the democratic movement which the country emphasizes. Taking into account the democratic tendencies in Russia, it does not seem that there is any urge to limit these movements.

Linking Russian international Islamic movements to Iran is an initiative by the authorities of the Zionist regime for their own benefit. Therefore, the Russian authorities who view the internal democratic tendencies in their country as a factor for strengthening the process of reforms and democracy in that country, and consider that maintaining and consolidating ties with Iran and regaining their lost international role is in their interest, will never be trapped by Zionists' fresh deception.

Daily Speculates on U.S. Plans for Iraq, Region

*NC1309133995 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 4 Sep 95 pp 1, 14*

[Editorial: "The United States Is Still Thinking About Perpetuating Saddam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The Baghdad regime is in turmoil. The dismissal of three ministers indicates that Saddam is trying even now to pin the crisis in the country on others to exonerate himself. But the unexpected decision to restrict the activities of his son 'Udayy in such circumstances is more of a warning to others that perhaps one day it will be their turn and all their powers and the levers of decisionmaking and implementation will be taken away from them.

But you must not ignore that the decision to restrict 'Udayy's activities is mostly propaganda for domestic consumption. Its obvious meaning is that in Baghdad today, when Saddam is in the throes of a crisis of no-confidence, and no one can trust anyone else, the restricting of 'Udayy's activities should, on principle, mean that the objective was to reprimand him. But this decision has multifaceted aims and, in addition to the propaganda aspect, it will give 'Udayy the opportunity,

away from daily issues, to try to preserve the regime, which has been severely weakened.

There is no doubt that Washington is playing the main role in the events unfolding in Baghdad today. Even though Washington officials are striving to ride the waves and to project themselves as the directors of events, current facts and figures indicate that the United States is merely adapting to developments in Baghdad so that it can capitalize on them accordingly. This is quite different from saying that Washington is holding the reins of events in Baghdad.

Events show that as far as the United States is concerned, Washington needs Saddam's government to continue so that it can still frighten the Arab shaykhs of the southern Persian Gulf and persuade them to obey Washington's policies and prevent the region from stabilizing. The escalation and continuation of the crisis in the region is an intrinsic part of the conditions necessary for implementing U.S. policy in the Middle East.

This is why the United States does not want Saddam to be toppled and any effort to prove the contrary would be a propagandist maneuver to deceive the public and help Washington achieve its objectives. Washington insists that the regional shaykhs should be made to understand that without the U.S. military presence in the region there can be no security and that this is why the oil Croesuses should pay billions of dollars from their vast coffers for security and freedom from a sense of danger from Saddam.

While it is easy to understand these facts, the Arabs do not wish to comprehend them. They do not have permission to do so and act accordingly.

We should not forget that Washington needs to try to keep the regional shaykhs satisfied and to assure them it can solve their problems. The U.S. pretense of seeking to topple Saddam is not only geared to placate the Arab shaykhs. It can also pave the way for further milking of the Arabs by the United States so that they feel their heavy investment goes toward consolidating the U.S. military presence in the region to scorch Saddam's roots.

Washington is merely projecting such an impression to the Arabs, while it realizes the value of Saddam's existence, to forge ahead with its objectives. Naturally it fears that if the current crisis in Baghdad leads to the downfall of Saddam, the bugbear that is the fear felt by the regional shaykhs will be eliminated in one fell swoop.

Recent remarks by King Husayn that the time for change in Baghdad and the downfall of Saddam has come and that Mubarak's offer of asylum to the Baghdad executioner—in view of the scale of the Baghdad and

Jordan regimes' affiliation with the United States—have all the qualities of a deceptive maneuver. It can prove the veracity of this point, that is, that the United States is still deceiving the Arabs and has no motivation for toppling Saddam. This is in stark contrast with what Washington is propagating and pretending to drive home to its lackeys by its deceitful utterances.

U.S. Accused of Pursuing 'Domino Theory' in Region

NC1009055495 *Tehran ABRAR in Persian 6 Sep 95 p 12*

[Political commentary: "The United States and the 'Domino Theory' in the Middle East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Are the U.S. forces preparing themselves to deal the final blow to the Iraqi government? It appears that from the Western point of view, obtaining a replacement for Saddam Husayn is of immense importance for an amicable end to the crisis in Iraq.

As had been predicted, Saddam's son-in-law Husayn Kamil Hasan has placed key information on Iraq's biological weapons at the disposal of the UN head of the commission for Iraq's disarmament, Rolf Ekeus. In his interview with DER SPIEGEL, Ekeus said that Iraq's biological arsenal can destroy the entire world.

This remark can be considered a pretext for the White House to topple the Iraqi government. This is because the United States needs to eliminate the traditional polarization within the region—of which Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, and Iran all are a part—in order to protect the free passage of oil, Israel's security, and the establishment of Middle East peace.

In addition, toppling the Iraqi government will be considered a decisive achievement in view of the U.S. presidential elections. Of similar importance is the forging of the new security arrangements which Shim'on Peres has referred to as "the New Middle East."

It is clear that with the toppling of the Iraqi regime the regional governments will also experience turbulence. It is for this reason that in a swift reaction to prevent its collapse, Syria has deployed its forces on its border with Iraq.

Now the United States is exerting three-pronged pressure on Iraq from Jordan, Kuwait, and Turkey. Frequent reconnaissance flights over Iraq and increased activity by U.S. planes at the Incirlik military base in Turkey and the staging of joint maneuvers with Kuwait and Jordan are testimony to this fact.

The United States imagines that the toppling of the Iraqi government will permit it to implement the "domino theory" [preceding two words in English]—first, in Iraq and subsequently in neighboring countries—in order to change the situation in the Middle East. Baghdad has become the focal point for future changes in the Middle East.

In order to prevent the predominance of the United States and the Zionists in the region there is immense need for closer cooperation among the progressive and advanced countries of the Middle East, including Egypt, which is quite apprehensive of its future role. These countries are not alone and on the international level they can elicit the support of powerful countries such as Russia, France, and the PRC; countries which in some way or another are opposed to the current trends developing in the Middle East.

Daily Addresses U.S. Efforts To Gain Oil 'Monopoly'

NC1409095695 *Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Sep 95 pp 1, 15*

[Editorial: "Propaganda Maneuvers to Eliminate the United States' Commercial Rivals From the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

If the United States merely intended to eliminate its European rivals from the Middle East, especially from the oil-rich littoral states of the Persian Gulf, what should it have done in addition to what it has been doing in recent months and years?

The answer to this question, even after an extensive assessment would be "logically, nothing." In fact what is required to eliminate its European rivals from the scene is the result of the United States airing its opinions, its decisionmaking roulette, and its share of the loot from the second Persian Gulf war, which has brought the United States to this level.

The United States' role in the Middle East—especially in view of the latest developments in Iraq and Washington's strategic objectives in the political propagandist games—is constantly the focus of attention. However, all aspects of this issue have never been correctly and intensively appraised from another angle. One of the main strategic U.S. objectives in these military and political propagandist games is to eliminate its European commercial rivals from the political equation in the Middle East. This appraisal is just as important for its European rivals as it is for Washington and should be given a special place on the international propaganda scene.

After the oil war ended, the United States strove to direct all benefits toward itself and to monopolize all the major industrial and commercial contracts for the reconstruction of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Even though at the time France and Britain objected to this more than the other European countries, in practice, their gains were not proportional to their efforts.

We should not forget that today the United States is facing a massive and extensive financial crisis and according to the economic experts at the two-day session in New York the United States has a budget deficit of \$160 billion. It seems highly unlikely that in the near future a miracle will transform the insolvent U.S. economy.

Under such circumstances, the United States is investing its propaganda in the domestic crisis in Baghdad and in terrorizing the Arab shaykhs with the specter of another attack by Saddam. The dispatch of U.S. generals to Amman and of Marines to Kuwait is motivated by the fact that on the one hand the U.S. public's attention is being diverted to regions beyond its frontiers and on the other doubts are being sown among Washington's European rivals about the region's stability through propagandist maneuvers. This is geared to making them abandon all thoughts of investment and collaboration in longterm projects in the region and any aspirations of competing with U.S. companies in economic and industrial projects there.

Despite this, U.S. commercial rivals are aware that the misleading information being disseminated by U.S. officials has no credence. They are confident that if the region were unstable, the U.S. companies would not have made such frenzied attempts to compete with one another to operate there.

The crux of the matter is that the United States does not want its economic and industrial rivals to have even the smallest share of the business in the Persian Gulf region. This is why it constantly instills them with doubts about the region's security and stability by disseminating misleading and distorted information. This is aimed at deceiving its European competitors and giving them the impression that there is nothing in the Persian Gulf except the headache of instability, complex problems, proliferating crises, and insecure political and economic conditions. The United States wants to give them the impression that its involvement here is entirely due to its sense of responsibility with regard to promoting international peace and security.

The fact is quite to the contrary and the United States had never pillaged and plundered this region's wealth to such an extent before. However, this is not something that is difficult for its European rivals to understand.

Britain's attitude is quite clear as it has become used to blind imitation of the Washington administration and is well aware that it is very difficult, in fact, quite impossible for it to change this despicable behavior. France, on the other hand, is pursuing a clearcut and different policy, which is in sharp contrast to the bellicose policies of Washington.

The German authorities have always avoided any entanglement with Washington but their performance clearly indicates that they are not very pleased with the United States and are quite upset by the U.S. domineering behavior. The other European countries also favor seeking a share of the Persian Gulf market according to their own situations but prefer to resolve their problems gradually as time passes.

Under such circumstances the United States is endeavoring to gain a monopoly on oil as its main lever for deciding energy prices. It would be rather simplistic if we were to overlook this point in any assessment of the developments today and yesterday. The main issue from the U.S. vantage point is oil and the United States is not in the least inclined to permit its commercial rivals to control the main hub of the world's energy.

Editorial Views Strained Ties With Azerbaijan

NC1209115895 *Tehran ABRAR in Persian*
31 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial: "It is a Mistake to Test the Tested"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud Va'ez, deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, announced on Monday [28 August]: "Part of the minor problems in relations between Iran and Azerbaijan are in the process of being eliminated and the time has come for broadening Tehran-Baku relations." He said that Azerbaijani President Aliyev would visit Tehran this [Iranian] year and added: Consultations and contacts are taking place now at various diplomatic levels and the relations between the two countries will swiftly move toward serious change. The Iranian foreign ministry official's remarks come at a time when:

1. Iranians residing in Azerbaijan or traveling to the country are harassed by the Baku law enforcement officials and the coast guard has frequently prevented Iranians from fishing in Iran's own coastal waters.
2. The dossiers of the complaints filed by Iranians have not been attended to, despite Baku's promises to do so.
3. The Baku leader is subservient to the U.S. viewpoint as regards his foreign policies and has annulled the agreement for Iran's participation in the oil consortium.
4. Azerbaijan is also opposing the formulation of the Caspian Sea's legal status, in which it is being supported

by the United States, and considers the southwestern part of the Caspian Sea as its own. This is despite the fact that Iran, Turkmenistan, and Russia are in favor of delineating a new legal regime for the Caspian Sea.

5. Under the U.S. and Zionist influence Azerbaijan's mass media is disseminating false news about Iran, while Aliyev's government continues to collude with them and overlook their misdemeanors.

6. In conjunction with the various government factions in Baku, the Azerbaijani mass media is using the funds of the Azerbaijani people to spread distorted news against the Islamic Republic of Iran and to stake territorial claims against Iran. This campaign is being supported by the propaganda organizations of the U.S. CIA and the "silence" on the part of Aliyev and his coterie.

By taking the above factors into account how did Va'ezi permit himself to talk of "minor differences" in Tehran-Baku relations and their solutions? Has there been any change in Baku's policies that the people are unaware of and only Va'ezi knows and does not wish to divulge? Or is it that, God forbid, our foreign policy officials are once again falling prey to the sweet and alluring promises of Aliyev as they did in the past?

The people of Iran should be informed if Baku's foreign policy has indeed adopted a positive trend. However, Baku's current attitude does not give any indication that Aliyev and his Pan-Turkiist [preceding word in English] clique have learned a lesson from the past. Our diplomatic officials should remember the adage that "it is a mistake to test the tested." If they continue to tread the path which is not clearly defined, Iran's security and national interests will be jeopardized and then they are the ones who will have to answer to the Iranian people.

Radio Assails Butrus-Ghali's Handling of Bosnia

LD0909213495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 9 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In our previous program we said that following the fall of the so-called safe towns in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the violation of human rights of the people in that country a wave of general protest engulfed the world over. The enormous pressure from these protests was to the extent that the UN secretary general was forced to introduce the big powers as the chief agent in the massacre of the Bosnian Muslims.

However, as we noted in our previous program, the remarks made by the UN secretary general can never reduce his responsibility vis-a-vis the Bosnian tragedy. There is no doubt that the UN's weak performance

in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly over the recent months, has led to an increase in the Serb-perpetrated crimes and violation of human rights in that territory.

At present, the Serbs, by killing and executing thousands of Bosnian youths and raping the women and girls in these regions, continue their ethnic and racial genocide. What is interesting is that the UN itself has taken part in these crimes and, by evacuating the towns and transferring the children, women, adolescents, and old people to the Bosnian Government-controlled areas, is passively contributing to the racial cleansing in the region.

However, what is to be regretted is that UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali himself has repeatedly condemned the policy on ethnic cleansing in various parts of the world and has called for seriously dealing with this dilemma on the part of the international community. For example, in an article printed in the English-language newspaper INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE on the 16 April 1995, he condemns the genocide in Rwanda saying: Until recently the world thought that in case of the occurrence of any kind of genocide they would react and stop it. The common catchword was: Never Again. However, the words alone did not do anything and the world is presently witnessing another genocide. In Rwanda half a million people died. Some used the word tribal hostilities to justify and explain those events. Yet, what occurred in Rwanda, was a genocide but no explanation is acceptable for it.

Butrus-Ghali in his article continues: But we have the protocol and punishments approved by the UN General Assembly in 1948 on banning the crime of massacre and 117 countries have subscribed to that agreement. The scope of the legal jurisdiction of that protocol covers the whole world and reliance on it is eternal and the responsibility which has been put on the signatories is also clear. This protocol specifies that genocide is regarded as a crime according to international rights and is contrary to the UN spirit and goals condemning the civilized world.

Butrus-Ghali, in the end of this article, says: Perhaps it was better to say that we know nothing and prefer not take any action and it is even easier to turn our eyes to another direction. But this kind of behavior is in a way being part of the crime. The human common spirit puts a duty on us which we have to do.

Now, one has to ask Mr. Butrus-Ghali as to how you condemn the genocide in the world, while today you have closed your eyes to the genocide and ethnic cleansing policy of the criminal Serbs. Do Serb brutalities not fall under the 1948 UN General Assembly's protocol banning mass killings and the punishment laid down

for it? How can the international community today witness gross violation of human rights and witness the most bitter forms of genocide in the world without taking any effective step?

It is nearly four years now that Bosnia is rolling in blood. Hundreds of thousands have been killed or are missing, 2 million people have fled their homes and shelters, torture is carried out systematically in the Serb camps, and ethnic cleansing is still under way. Today the world public opinion regards the silence and turtle-like movement of the international communities, and in particular the UN, in preventing the mass killing of the Bosnian people a kind of cooperation with the Serbs and sharing in their crimes. Are such acts as disarmament of the Muslims, giving a free hand to the Serbs to get arms, grants of consecutive concessions to them, issuance of the UN Security Council's commandeered resolutions the true and clear instances of cooperation with the Serbs? The world people will never forget this conscious delaying tactics.

Mr. Butrus-Ghali, are you still pessimistic about finding a political solution to end the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia as when you started your activities? Experience has now shown that in the process of the Serbs' ceaseless war and aggression none of the measures taken by the UN, the European Union, or America in this respect not only have not been of a preventing nature, but also have led to creating suitable political conditions and a greater time for the Serbs to continue their massacre.

Undoubtedly, the UN does have the ability and necessary tools to prevent the Serbs from aggression, and based on the spirit of the law in [words indistinct] it has to act in this way. But in practice it has failed so far to implement its legitimate ability on the Bosnian crisis, while these organizations have shown different reactions at the time of the outbreak of similar crises in various parts of the world.

The record of the UN's performance in Kuwait, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, and Libya indicate that the use of military force by that organization depends completely on the underground and secret understandings of the permanent members of the UN. And this not only is not inconsistent with the existential nature and entity of the UN, but also has endangered the world peace. And for this purpose the Bosnian people have now fallen victim to the UN's cruelty and carelessness. But in this tragedy, though the Bosnian children and women have lost their lives, the UN and the West too must know that they have lost their medals, pinned falsely to their chests, for good.

Malaysian Minister on 'Great Task' Done for Bosnia

LD1409091195 Tehran IRNA in English
0811 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept. 14, IRNA — Iran has accomplished a great task in connection with Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Malaysian defense minister said here on Wednesday [13 September].

The remark was made in a meeting between the Malaysian Defense Minister Syed Hamid al-Bar [last name as received] and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Foruzandeh on the sidelines of the joint meeting of the foreign and defense ministers of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The Malaysian defense minister also said that the Kuala Lumpur meeting of the Islamic contact group provides a good prelude for coordination among Muslim countries to upgrade their potentials.

He added, "We should exert all our efforts for preserving territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

In response, the Iranian defense minister said that Iran has spared no effort to render material and spiritual assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He also called for further coordination among Muslim countries in an effort to help the oppressed Bosnian nation.

At the end of the meeting the two sides agreed to take effective measures for promoting bilateral Tehran-Kuala Lumpur relations.

Debt to Italian Companies Reportedly Rescheduled

BR1109151795 Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE in Italian
8 Sep 95 p 9

[Report by Fabrizio Aiazzo: "Peace Breaks Out Between Italy and Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A trade peace has been reached between Italy and Iran. After four days of negotiations, the latest agreement rescheduling the settlement of debts owed to Italian companies by Tehran was signed on Wednesday [6 September] night. Talks that have lasted about a year and a half and set out to convert short-term Iranian debts totaling about 2,600 billion lire and involving about 500 businesses into medium- and long-term ones have thus been brought to a close. The dispute has had a negative impact on trade between the two countries, and the settlement should open up new outlets for Italian goods and restore Italian state insurance on [export credit to] Iran.

This latest deal concluded by Mediocredito Centrale [the central medium-term credit refinancing institute], which was acting on instructions from Confindustria [Confederation of Italian Industry] and the Italian firms, and representatives of Iranian banks, including the Bank Tejarat Tehran, mainly covers uninsured debt and the sum outstanding from the SACE [Autonomous Export Credit Section] guarantee on insured debt.

It follows the approximately \$1-billion deal on the quota insured by SACE signed in London on 16 January, under which 19 banks granted Iran financing to pay the Italian firms. The \$1 billion agreed has now been almost entirely paid out to the firms concerned.

Wednesday's deal closes the negotiations with the Islamic Republic once and for all, as a general agreement also covering all debts not backed by SACE's state guarantee has been reached. As Isidoro Lucciola, head of the foreign credit department at Mediocredito, explained, a distinction had to be drawn between various cases before the Wednesday's settlement could be finalized.

As far as the sum outstanding from the SACE guarantee, which involves 67 firms for a total of \$220 million, is concerned, payment of an initial installment, covering interest on arrears and the period of grace, has already been made, but the promissory notes have not yet been issued following a number of technical objections, which have since been dealt with, raised by the Central Iranian bank's legal department. However, they will be issued before the end of October.

As regards uninsured debts of less than \$100,000, which amount to \$7 million and concern 126 Italian creditors, those that had been reconciled have already been paid. If there are any positions still to be reconciled in this connection, the debts will be settled rapidly, by 15 November at the latest.

Uninsured debts for larger amounts, involving 300 firms for a total of \$420 million, have to be divided into those for which the lists have been reconciled and those for which they have not. In the former instance, 25 percent of the amount will be paid by 6 October, by which date the promissory notes for the remaining 75 percent and interest on arrears will be issued. In the latter case, as the deadline for reconciliation has been set at 15 October, 25 percent will be paid by 14 November, on which date the promissory notes for the remaining 75 percent and interest on arrears are also scheduled for issue.

These international IOU's, which will be guaranteed by the Iranian central bank, will be deposited with the Banca di Roma in London, and the businesses concerned can sell the rights deriving therefrom on the international markets.

Although the deal struck with the Iranians is final, the Mediocredito representatives have left a door open for latecomers, in other words firms that, for whatever reason, were unable to file the documentation regarding their credits with Confindustria or Mediocredito before the 31 May deadline. Basically, the deadline has been reset, with the result that laggardly Italian creditors can obtain their share of the refunds scheduled under the agreement if they submit the supporting documents by 29 September.

Now that this financial dispute has been cleared out of the way, Italian exports to the Islamic Republic should start to grow again. Indeed, Italian exports suffered a sharp drop last year, falling from 2,038 billion [currency unspecified] in 1993 to 1,160 billion in 1994.

This decline is strongly confirmed by the figures for the first few months of the current year as well: In the first quarter of 1995, Italian exports amounted to 198 billion compared with 431 billion over the same period in 1994.

IRGC Stages Amphibious Maneuvers in Caspian Sea

*LD1309181095 Tehran IRNA in English
1704 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sari (Mazandaran), Sept. 13, IRNA — Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) staged amphibious maneuvers in the coastal waters of the Caspian ports of Chalus and Now Shahr on the threshold of the Sacred Defense Week (Sept. 22-28).

The 'Karbala' 25 Division and Battalion 3 of IRGC Airborne Division displayed their fighting prowess in the exercises.

According to military officials the objective behind the maneuvers was to test the combat readiness of IRGC forces.

Majles Speaker Meets With Friday Prayer Leaders

*LD1309152895 Tehran IRNA in English
1508 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA — Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri told the Eleventh National Seminar of Leaders of Friday Congregational Prayers here Wednesday [13 September] that the current session of the Majles was a cross-section of different political platforms all of them believing in the principle of the absoluteness of the leader's authority.

He said the tendency was marked especially at a political juncture at which both "shrewd enemies and silly friends" were out to depreciate that "inviolable Islamic principle," namely the Velayat-e Faqih.

Hojatoleslam Nateq Nuri said the Majles was not an executive branch of the government, but instead monitored the behavior of the administration while at the same time it supported it.

He said the administration had been doing excellently in light of a 52 per cent post-war national budget deficit, adding that the fuss about the inflation running wild in the country was simply a device by the enemies of the Islamic revolution to blunt the fervor of the masses, and saying that "the history will pass the judgement."

Hojatoleslam Nateq-Nuri also complained about "the weakness of tablighat (publicity) campaign" for making the accomplished national development services felt as should have been felt, adding the Islamic revolution had "honestly suffered injustice in that respect."

Agriculture Minister Supports Membership in WTO

*LD1009082195 Tehran IRNA in English
0531 GMT 10 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA — Iran's agricultural products would find better markets once Iran becomes a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari said in an interview with the latest issue of IRAN NEWS 'Economic Review'.

Kalantari supported Iran's membership in WTO and said that WTO membership would also improve quality of Iranian products and their competitiveness at international level.

He stated that a thorough review should, however, be undertaken in which all aspects pertaining to Iran's membership are analyzed under various scenarios.

"We also need to obtain the required trade concessions in order to gain maximum advantage for our economy," he added.

As for the position of Iran's agriculture in international trade, Kalantari said that on the whole the agricultural sector in Iran has many comparative advantages that need to be explored and utilized, while some of the agricultural products need further improvement in order to be able to compete at international markets.

However, WTO membership would enhance competitiveness and would open up new markets for Iran's industrial and agricultural products, Kalantari said.

Government Said Buying Wheat From Afghan Farmers

LD1309123795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has started purchase of wheat from farmers of Herat Province in the western parts of Afghanistan, three times the price it pays to Iranian farmers.

According to news sources, the measure was aimed at encouraging the Afghan farmers to plant wheat instead of poppy which is used for producing opium.

Article Describes Turkey's Military Strategy

*95LH0250A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic
21 Jul 95 pp 22-23*

[Article by Sa'id al-Qaysi: "Turkish Scenario for Military Confrontation With Iran in Northern Iraq; Washington Relies on Turkish Army To Confront Tehran-Moscow Axis; Strategic U.S. Inducements Have Prevented Turkish Generals From Opening Up To Saddam Husayn; Who Are Turkey's Muslims That Form Iran's 'Trojan Horse'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara—Despite the numerous political, economic, social, and security problems Turkey is experiencing, one concern that worries high-ranking political and military officials is future relations with Iran. The Islamic Republic is accused of exporting fundamentalist radicalism, supporting separatist Kurds, launching war against Turkey in Central Asia, and allying itself with Russia and Iraq against Turkey. Observers are convinced that the coming period will see a military confrontation between Iran and Turkey. The Turkish Army has prepared scenarios for this confrontation seriously and it has been watching with extreme concern the endeavors at rapprochement between Baghdad and Tehran.

What are these scenarios and what is the U.S. role in persuading Turkish generals of the need to play an important role in the "dual containment" strategy and in confronting a likely Moscow-Tehran axis?

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI reporter has returned from Ankara with this report:

Turkish-Iranian relations are just about the only issue, if not the main concern, preoccupying the majority of the Turkish circles concerned with the development in the country's political conditions, whether at the domestic level or the foreign level. These relations are the daily subject of discussion which these circles take up in their meetings and their evening get-togethers. The relations issue has also become the pivot of numerous

analytical studies and articles since last March's Turkish military campaign when more than 35,000 Turkish troops entered northern Iraq in an attempt to expel PKK forces from this area which constitutes their safe haven and supply line.

There is unanimous agreement among various Turkish circles that since the end of the second Gulf war—to be specific, since the start of the Middle East peace process and since Turkey was isolated from the developments between Israel and its neighbors—Iran has been the main concern to the Turkish political leadership and especially to the military establishment which, with its historical weight, continues to exert great influence on the political decisionmaking.

A Turkish political official concerned with the region's dossiers has said: "Observers did not pay attention to what Turkish President Suleyman Demirel said last May when he stated that it is necessary to re-delineate the Turkish-Iraqi border." The official added, "In criticizing the Turkish president's statements, foreign reactions focused on expansionist Turkish interests. Meanwhile, Arabs focused on the danger of partitioning Iraq." But according to this official, everybody ignored the fact that the issue goes beyond Turkish expansion or Iraq's partition. He also said that the Turkish president committed a grave mistake because he exposed, and in a distorted manner, what had been going on in the army command circles. The official added that the Turkish president depicted Turkey as if it were threatening to occupy northern Iraq for purely historical expansionist reasons, thus provoking a wave of criticism in the region. The Arab countries showed their concern, expressing the viewpoint that to change the region's map is to threaten its stability. Iran was also apprehensive of the change on the basis that it would pose a threat to its domestic stability.

It is the opinion of a prominent political commentator that the Turkish president analyzed a number of military reports incorrectly and understood in his own way the discussions that had taken place at the National Security Council on strategic issues after the Gulf war. Most military reports indicate that there are possibilities of the outbreak of a Turkish-Iranian military confrontation, which could take place in northern Iraq. The reports also indicate that the army has drafted plans to face such eventualities and that an objective of the Turkish Army campaign in northern Iraq was to find out the capability of the Turkish military establishment to occupy strategic positions as quickly as possible in order to confront any Iranian movements supported by pro-Iraqi Kurdish forces, especially by the PKK and the Iraqi Kurdish Hizballah.

Ankara and "Dual Containment"

The political commentator says that the Turkish-Iranian confrontation issue was raised urgently in the wake of the Turkish forces' entry into northern Iraq last March. Some people supported the idea of keeping the forces there for the longest time possible whereas others opposed it, expressing the opinion that the Turkish forces' presence in northern Iraq could lead promptly to an Iraqi-Iranian alliance and to isolating Ankara in the region, not to mention weakening the army. It was certain that the PKK would exploit the situation to escalate its attacks inside Turkey, with the support of Iran and other countries interested in weakening Ankara, and that conflicts would erupt at the same time between international and regional forces over sharing Central Asia's oil resources. Explaining this situation, an official of the Straight Path Party ruling Ankara has said: "The Kurdish card is the card posing the most serious threat to Turkey. It is an easy card to use to exert pressure. Whoever wishes to curtail Turkey's role in the region flourishes this card. It is an Iranian card that Tehran wants to use in its hidden conflict with Turkey. It is an Iraqi card and it is likely that Russia will use the same card in its conflict with Turkey." The official added: "The real confrontation is two-sided: a Turkish-Iranian confrontation and a Turkish-Russian confrontation. In this context, the Russian-Iranian rapprochement is an immediate threat to Turkey." The official also said that the United States has disclosed, through Richard Barkley, its ambassador in Ankara, that Washington has reevaluated the Turkish Army's role in light of the emergence of forces in Russia that support the creation of an axis with Iran to control Central Asia's oil resources.

The same party official believes that within the context of reevaluation of the Turkish role, Washington gave the Turkish Army the go-ahead to enter northern Iraq. The purpose was to drag Turkey to play a role that serves the U.S. interest within the process of the "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran. Turkey agreed to play this role after a lengthy dialogue with Washington and after heated debates within Turkey's political and military leaderships.

The official has noted that until the Turkish Army's entry into northern Iraq, the Turkish-Iraqi relations issue was the subject of strong disagreement between Ankara and Washington. The majority of the army command, supported by certain political and economic forces, was inclined to open up to Baghdad. This command saw in opening up to Baghdad a solution to the confrontation with the PKK and an end to Iran's support for this party. Moreover, such opening up to Baghdad was seen as likely to create an axis in the

region to stem the fundamentalist tide. Some European countries encouraged this approach on the grounds that Turkey constitutes the shield in the face of the Tehran-led fundamentalist campaign.

However, Washington persuaded Ankara that an alliance with Baghdad would permit Saddam Husayn to attack Iraq's Kurdistan and that this could lead to the migration of hundreds of thousands of Kurds to Turkey and to jeopardizing its stability. Washington also used the Azerbaijan oil card, letting Ankara know that any opening up to Baghdad could lead to discarding the idea of extending oil pipelines from Azerbaijan to the Mediterranean Sea through Turkey. Thus, a deal was concluded between Ankara and Washington, with the latter agreeing to the idea of extending oil pipelines through Turkish territory and to giving Turkey a share of Azerbaijan's oil in return for Ankara's abandonment of the idea of opening up to Baghdad. Consequently, Ankara became a part of the "dual containment" plan.

Turkey's acceptance of this role has not been accidental but the result of "calculations." Turkey has an interest in confronting Iran in Central Asia because Turkish influence is received in this region with broad popular support, considering that the majority of Central Asia's peoples are from Turkomen origin. This region has experienced a historical Turkish-Russian conflict which escalated recently when some of Central Asia's countries gained their independence and when Iran became involved as Russia's ally. Whoever visits Turkey notices that the Turkish people follow the developments in Chechnya closely because no less than 1 million Chechens live in Turkey and consider themselves to be from the Caucasus originally. This fact heightens the Turks' hatred for Russia, their anger at the Iranian-Russian alliance, and consequently, their support for the line of confrontation with Iran.

Iran Exports Its Revolution to Turkey

Currently, there is nearly unanimous agreement among Turks that Turkey's problems are exported by Tehran. In addition to Tehran's support for the PKK, there are fundamentalist parties that are aided by Iran. What is meant here is not the Islamic Welfare [al-rafah] Party, which is led by Najmoldin Erbakan, gained 20 percent of the votes in the March 1994 elections, and controls the biggest Turkish cities, including Istanbul and Ankara, the capital. What is meant are numerous prohibited fundamentalist organizations that are, nevertheless, very active. Even though it isn't possible to assess Iran's role in the fundamentalist awakening in Turkey, Ankara accuses Tehran of involvement through the institutions which the latter controls. These institutions include the Higher Education Institute, in which Istanbul's Turk-

ish youth enroll for specialized studies; the Secondary and University Education Institute; the Institute for Clergymen, Missionaries, and Instruction in the Venerable Koran in Izmir, plus a number of libraries, clubs, and associations that are actively engaged in promoting "revolutionary Islam." Officials believe that the Turkish revolutionary fundamentalist faction, which calls itself Turkey's Muslims, is Iran's "Trojan horse."

Some go as far as to believe that the sectarian conflict which erupted between 'Alawites and Sunnis recently is nurtured by Tehran. There is fear that this conflict will expand through Iranian support for underground 'Alawite organizations and that the conflict reflects coordination between the PKK and these organizations. The concern over what is happening at this level has led to great support among the people and amidst intellectual and political circles for the idea of strengthening the alliance with Washington against Iran. Some people, despite their support for Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's call for amending the Constitution, believe that the time is not appropriate for such amendment because of the dangers to which the country is exposed. These people say that the time is not appropriate to weaken the army. There is also fear of an alliance between the 'Alawites, who represent one-third of the population, and the Kurds, who number 12 million. It is evident that the army exploits this fear to continue its influence over and control of political decisions. Thus, the position of the high-ranking generals, who are among the strongest supporters of reinforcing Turkey's role versus Iran in the region, is also strengthened.

Pakistan

Commentary: Kabul Interference Charges 'Baseless'

BK1409060995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Sep 95

[Commentary by Yusuf Rafique]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a letter written to the United Nations secretary general, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has requested Mr. Butrus-Ghali to renew his efforts to secure implementation of the [Afghan peace] plan, which his special representative, Mahmoud Mestiri, had devised in consultation with Afghan factions. Pakistan's foreign minister has also asked the Government of Afghanistan to find a peaceful solution of the Afghan problem, rather than unleashing baseless allegations against Pakistan.

The Government of Afghanistan immediately, after ransacking Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul on 6 September,

accused Pakistan of meddling in Afghanistan's internal affairs. This was the third attack against Pakistan. The earlier ones being the kidnapping of the children's school bus and vandalizing of the Pakistan's mission in Kabul. The Rabbani government has also alleged that Pakistan's intelligence agencies were behind the phenomenal success of the Taleban. The Afghan charge of Pakistan's interference, however, has not been substantiated by any tangible evidence, except the wild rhetoric of an ungrateful leadership, which has never taken kindly to Islamabad. This, it seems, is the way of repaying the sacrifices rendered over the past many years by the people of Pakistan, which made it possible for President Rabbani to rule over Kabul today.

The allegations, that Afghanistan's Government have raised, are baseless and empty as President Rabbani's government, which was to relinquish power on 31 March and to hand over the regime of the government to the interim mechanism. It is a known fact that when any group loses control or suffers from any setback, it starts blaming Pakistan for their own safety. Pakistan considers the ongoing fighting in Afghanistan as their internal matter and it has no intention of making any interference. President Rabbani's forces are getting setbacks in different provinces and these reverses have been attributed as Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. But even if this charge is accepted as true, which it is not, how does it follow that it entitles Government of Afghanistan to defy all international law and norms as well as its own laws which guarantee immunity and safety to all diplomatic missions? It defies all logic and even common sense to fathom the decision firstly to have diplomatic mission attacked and then to complaint to the United Nations that the Pakistan Government is working against Kabul regime's interest. The only interest that Pakistan has in Afghanistan is the future of 1.6 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Pakistan wants the Afghan factions to come to some sort of settlement and make way for these refugees. Though Pakistan has never said that these refugees are a burden to Pakistan, but it cannot be denied that they have a negative effect on Pakistan's economy. Pakistan has always supported the efforts of the United Nation, the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], and neutral groups for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Pakistan is ready to assist in any way possible the Afghan factions to arrive at a durable political solution, which could end the ongoing fratricidal conflict.

Negotiators Report on Government-MQM Talks
*BK1309133295 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 13 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The eighth round of talks between the government and Altaf Group [of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, or MQM] for the restoration of peace in Karachi was held in Islamabad today. The leader of the government team, Federal Minister N.D. Khan, and the head of the Altaf Group delegation, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, both sounded optimistic after the dialogue and hoped that today's exercise will pave the way for a political solution in the near future.

The round lasted over three and half hours, following which the two leaders recorded their statements. However, they declined to take questions, saying that dialogue is at a fragile stage and elaborate talks on issues being under consideration by the two parties may impair the ongoing process. Mr. N.D. Khan, in his statement, said we devoted our efforts to strengthen goodwill and hope to reach an understanding as a result. Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi said as a result of today's talks, we are hopeful about a breakthrough in the next round to be held in Islamabad on Monday [11 September]. The points which came for discussion today can help the government reach important decisions on core issues.

Dehlvi Said To Refuse 'Power Sharing'

*BK1309063595 Islamabad THE NATION in English
13 Sep 95 p 4*

[Report: "Dehlvi Rules Out Power-Sharing"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (PPI) — Chief of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] negotiating team Ajmal Dehlvi has ruled out the possibility of power sharing with the government under the prevailing circumstances.

Talking to newsmen here Tuesday [12 September] evening he said the question of power sharing does not arise till the acceptance of basic demands of the MQM.

"We have no lust for power. We want the resolution of the issues and redressal of our grievances", he remarked.

To a question he said "We have had the taste of power sharing with the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] in 1981.

Answering a question Dehlvi said the government had given a commitment that non issues will be set aside and only substantive issues will be taken up during the talks in Islamabad.

He said all the demands made by the MQM are genuine and should be accepted by the government. He said no political or religious party has objected to even a single

demand made in the 18 point charter of demands by the MQM.

Asked as to how the demands involving huge amounts can be accepted by the government having meager resources, he said the government can give a commitment and make new laws for the purpose. He said there is no issue which cannot be solved through talks.

Ajmal Dehlvi said non issues kept on dominating the real issues during the previous rounds of talks. He said the talks to take place in Islamabad will definitely yield result.

Responding to a question he said there will be no protest if the state refrains from using force against Mohajirs. He said the people are rendering sacrifices to achieve their rights.

He said it is for the government to think who is losing and who is benefiting from the protests.

He said the state and the government are two separate things adding that the MQM is protesting against the government. He said it is the right of the MQM to muster support in its favour on national and international level.

He said it would be incorrect to assume that the people of Karachi are sick and tired of repeated strike calls given by the MQM.

He said the MQM is considering to observe one-day or two-day strikes every week and added that a long strike call can also be given if the government continues to ignore the demands.

Punjab Assembly Elects New Chief Minister

BK1309084695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sardar Mohammad Arif Nakai, a PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] candidate, is the new chief minister of the Punjab. He was elected leader of the house by the majority of the members of the Punjab Assembly during its special session in Lahore this morning. He got 152 votes.

Earlier, all the five other candidates — including four from the Pakistan Democratic Front and one from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group — withdrew their candidatures. Those who withdrew their candidatures are Makhdoom Altaf Ahmad and Malik Mushtaq Awan of the Pakistan People's Party, Mian Ata Muhammad Maneka and Mr. Khush Akhtar Subhani of Pakistan Muslim League-Juneo Group, and Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group.

Sardar Mohammad Arif Nakai secured 152 votes in his favor and obtained the confidence of the house.

However, the opposition members abstained from the proceedings of the house. The speaker, Mr. Mohammad Hanif Ramey, who presided over the session, declared that Sardar Mohammad Arif Nakai has been elected as the leader of the house and later prorogued the session.

Sardar Mohammad Arif Nakai was elected to the Punjab Assembly in 1985 and was taken as revenue minister in 1986. He was again elected MPA [member of provincial assembly] in 1988 and was inducted in the Nawaz Sharif cabinet in 1989. He was reelected in 1990. He was also inducted as minister in the first as well as the second Wattoo cabinet.

Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, the president of Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group, Mr. Hamid Nasir Chattha, said that the decision to nominate Sardar Mohammad Arif Nakai as PDF candidate for the office of the Punjab chief minister was taken at a meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Lahore last night. Replying to a question, he said he was in favor of the unification of different sections of the Muslim League, but only after differences based on principles are removed.

Further on New Chief Minister, Posts

BK1409090395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief minister-elect of Punjab, Sardar Mohammad Arif Nakai, secured the vote of confidence during a special session of the Punjab Assembly in Lahore this morning. One hundred and forty-one members of the house expressed their confidence in the elected chief minister. A resolution concerning the vote of confidence was moved by Mr. Khush Akhtar Subhani. The special session was summoned by the governor, retired Lieutenant General Raja Mohammad Saroop Khan, to ask Sardar Arif Nakai to seek a vote of confidence. The speaker, Mr. Mohammad Hanif Ramay, was presiding over the session.

Makhdoom Altaf Ahmad took the oath as the senior Punjab minister at a ceremony at the Governor House in Lahore this morning. Punjab Governor retired Lt. Gen. Raja Saroop Khan administered the oath. The provincial chief minister, Sardar Mohammad Arif Nakai, was also present.

Daily Views President's Role in Punjab Situation

BK1209125495 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu
11 Sep 95 p 3

[Editorial: "President's Compulsions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While talking to reporters during his flight back from Turkmenistan, President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari said that he made the decision to suspend the assemblies in the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and Punjab Province under extreme pressure and with the goal of avoiding a critical situation. He also said that he was not happy about these decisions. The president expressed the hope that he will not be forced to make such decisions in the future. The president said repeatedly and emphatically that he was bound to act on the federal government's advice in accordance with the Constitution.

Leghari said that one primary reason for suspending the Punjab Assembly was Mian Manzoor Wattoo's corrupt practices. At a glance, the president's statement seems correct. If examined carefully, however, the situation does not correspond to the president's remarks. The president's claim that he made the decision to suspend the NWFP Assembly after watching the situation for a long time is not correct. The NWFP Assembly had hardly completed seven or eight months of work, and Pir Sabir Shah enjoyed the support of the majority in the assembly. Moreover, no crisis existed in the province that required suspension of the assembly.

A crisis situation had emerged in Punjab; however, the situation would probably have improved in a month or two. Though Hamid Nasir Chattha, leader of the Muslim League—Junejo Group, is still supporting the People's Party, he still complains that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto did not confide in him before the decision to suspend the assembly. This means that the chances of correcting the situation had existed, but the president executed the decision without any delay because the prime minister had already made up her mind.

Criticism of the president over his decisions to suspend the NWFP and Punjab Assemblies is not only because the president made wrong or hasty decisions but is also due to their outcome. The president's decision to suspend the NWFP Assembly resulted in the dissolution of Sabir Shah's government and the installation of Chief Minister Aftab Sherpao. Almost the same scenario is likely to emerge in Punjab.

The general public is inferring that the president has paved the way for the establishment of PPP [Pakistan People's Party]-dominated governments in both the provinces. Can the president eliminate this impression? No doubt, to act upon the federal government's advice

is a constitutional requirement of the president. The president also has the responsibility not to act as the president of one political party. He should try to remain impartial. Certainly, Mian Manzoor Wattoo was charged for corruption, and some of the charges are very serious. The problem is that similar charges have been and are still being leveled against the federal government as well. We do not know what the president's views are on those charges.

Will the president also take action on these charges? Will he realize his constitutional duties in this regard also? Noticing corruption is a good thing, but we are sorry to say that Aftab Sherpao formed his government in the NWFP through serious horse trading. The president did not deem it appropriate even to express his disapproval of these acts much less to talk of stopping them. Now the same is being done with regard to the formation of a new Punjab government. Scores of Punjab Assembly members have been forcibly taken to Islamabad or Karachi, and efforts are being made to buy their loyalties. Is this not corruption in the president's opinion? If he looks at it as corruption, then what is he doing to stop it?

The opposition launched a campaign against the president during the past few months to protest his partisan role. We believed, however, that this campaign was premature because no significant example of the president's partisanship was available at that time. According to a report, the opposition is planning to launch this campaign once again. We understand that the opposition will be justified in running this campaign if the president fails to restore his image as an impartial authority.

Aeronautical Complex 'Likely To Get Huge Orders'

BK0709141395 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
7 Sep 95 p 1,11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept 6 — The Pakistan Aeronautical Complex [PAC], which is to get the prestigious ISO-9000 certification of excellence and quality this month is likely to get huge orders for its Karakorum-8 trainer aircraft currently being evaluated at PAF [Pakistan Air Force] Academy Risalpur.

The evaluations are expected to be completed by the end of this year. The PAF has purchased six K-8 aircraft from PAC to evaluate pursuant to which the K-8 aircraft would be inducted for the basic- cum-advanced training role in the PAF.

The aircraft manufacturing factory of PAC has plans for establishing a final assembly line for this aircraft depending on the quantum of orders from PAF and other customers.

A major breakthrough is expected from the negotiations currently in progress with Saudi Arabia in light of these negotiations with regional customers establishment of a regional servicing centre for K-8 at PAC is under active consideration.

The project of K-8 has given PAC the much needed exposure in developing aircraft design. Since aviation related technology need to be acquired through a steady learning and excellence PAC embarked upon an ambitious program for the upgradation of its quality management systems to meet the international standards of ISO-9000. The programme was commenced in January 1994 and moved forward with great pace the result is that the Mirage Rebuild Factory of PAC becomes the first in Pakistan to achieve the ISO-9000 certification. The other factories of PAC are likely to complete this program by the end of 1996.

Director General of PAC Kamra Air Vice Marshal [AVM] Rahim Yousaf Zai told a group of defence correspondents from Rawalpindi and Islamabad that his team of experts in Kamra Complex are working around the clock closely with China over the development of joint venture project of Super-7 fighter. He said while China is responsible to build airframe and engine of the proposed fighter, PAC of Pakistan has been tasked to provide the avionics package of the aircraft.

Alert and articulate AVM Yousaf Zai, a pilot by training, took great pride giving endless counts of the successes his complex has achieved so far to contribute its share of responsibility toward national security.

"In our philosophy an aircraft never grows old. We have so far recovered three Mirages which otherwise would have been consigned to the junkyard or cost millions of dollars to recover from abroad," said AVM Rahim Yousaf Zai. He said Mirage Rebuild Factory (MRF) undertook the major program of recovering crash Mirages only five years ago and at present it is progressing on many projects.

All put together, MRF has also rebuilt thousands of Mirage and F-16 weapons systems. Jet engine rebuild and upgrade modification require a higher degree of skill and quality of engineering than any other area of mechanical engineering. PAC's capability to totally rebuild ATAR engines of the Mirage aircraft and upgrade F-100 engines of F-16 aircraft has given PAF an extra edge in engineering skills and much needed self-reliance to the country.

Giving an overview of PAC's most important and trusted wing of Kamra Avionics and Radar Factory (KARF), AVM Yousaf Zai said, the KARF was the most recent addition to the complex and was tasked to

rebuild Mobile Pulse Doppler Radar Systems and power generators of the PAF's air defence network. KARF is planning to enhance its output to keep these low looking Doppler Radar Systems operating 24 hours a day.

Elaborating the K-8 project, the Director General PAC Kamra said, that anticipating the replacement of its aging fleet T-37 trainer aircraft in 1990, PAC embarked upon a K-8 project in 1986. This was a co-project with China to jointly design and manufacture a basic jet trainer aircraft.

The K-8 aircraft first flew in 1991 and the basic design verification was completed in May 1992. Pakistan is now jointly participating in the small batch production phase of the program. The AMF will acquire the technologies to manufacture five major sub-assemblies of K-8 which include (a) horizontal stabiliser and elevator (b) vertical tail and rudder (c) engine front cowl (d) AFT fuselage, and (e) the engine access doors.

The AVM said that PAC is also working with SAGEM of France for the avionics upgrades of Mirages. These collaboration projects will add a new dimension of state-of-the-art technology to PAC's infrastructure and provide the capability in manufacturing key aircraft systems.

By establishing an Aerospace Vehicle Design Centre PAC is moving forward to a phased upgradation plan. A tooling design and manufacture capability has been established under collaboration with the Chinese.

The KARF will soon undertake another important project to rebuild the MPD 60 and 90 radars for the PAF's air defence network.

Air Vice Marshal Rahim Yousaf Zai said, over the years PAC had taken a gigantic stride in meeting its role and tasks. The cost of aircraft overhauling abroad is approximately four to eight times that incurred within the country; depending upon the type of weapon system. This factor has therefore led to millions of dollars in savings in foreign exchange. There has been substantial reduction in life cycle costs and in maintenance of reduced in country inventories due to non-stocking of large number of aircraft components.

Reduced turn around times for the aircraft has enhanced the operational readiness for PAF enormously. The other major advantage of this facility is that in case of emergency the aircraft can be recovered through a condensed overhaul schedule, and be made available to the PAF at short notice rather than be parked in a hanger thousands of miles away.

Giving the historical background of PAC's inception, Yousaf Zai recalled with profoundness the birth of Pakistan's most prestigious institute belonging to men of courage and excellence. He said the establishment of Pakistan Aeronautical Complex was first visualised in the post-1971 war period to arrest the heavy drain on the national exchequer in connection with fourth line maintenance of F-6 and Mirage fleets of the PAF. The F-6 rebuild factory was established in 1972 followed by Mirage Rebuild Factory in 1974 and the Aircraft Manufacturing Factory in 1975.

Consortium Reportedly To Build Oil Pipeline

BK1409041495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A consortium of seven national and international oil companies and the International Finance Corporation are to build a \$600 million pipeline from Karachi to Mahmud Kot near Multan. The 900-km long pipeline will supply upcountry areas with oil products, and is expected to be completed in the middle of 1998. All seven companies which signed a memorandum of understanding in Islamabad at a meeting of their senior representatives, will be involved in the operations of the pipeline. The federal minister for petroleum and natural resources said on this occasion that the project is of vital importance to the development of the country's energy sector.

Article Reviews New Trade Policy for 1995-1996

95AS0472F Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 18 Jul 95 p 3

[Article by A.M. Talah: "Trade Policy 1995-1996"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 3 July, 1995, the minister of trade announced the trade policy for 1995-96. The major points of the policy are as follows:

1. Export target: 9.2 billion dollars.

- Import target: 10.3 billion dollars.
- Exporters allowed to obtain foreign currency loans.
- Easing procedures concerning the export of jewelry.
- Lifting duty on import and export of raw cotton for three years.
- Insurance companies to be allowed to open offices outside the country without obtaining permission from the State Bank and Controller of Insurance.
- Foreigners and Pakistanis to be allowed to take carpets out of the country without obtaining permission from the State Bank and without adhering to any financial limits.
- Ban on import of pressure horns.

—Import of lubricating and grease oils allowed with the permission of the related ministry.

—Import of cigarette paper to be limited to cigarette making factories.

—Certain industrial export organizations to be allowed to pay reduced import duty on imported machinery and raw material. 2. During the eleven months of 1994-1995, exports accounted for 7.15 billion dollars and thus, the revenues for the full year should amount to 7.8 billion dollars. An 18 per cent increase in export revenues is targeted for 1995-96. The increase in exports in the year 1994-95 was mainly due to a rapid rise in the prices of goods on the international market and not to an increase in the quantity of goods exported. Prices may not continue to increase in the current year but even if prices should not decrease but remain at the present level, revenue from exports will still depend on the production of goods and the quantity left over for export after domestic demand has been met. In the 1995-96 budget, a 6.5 increase in gross national product is being aimed at; 3 percent of the added goods would be consumed domestically and the remaining 3.5 per cent would be available for export. Thus, if 3.5 percent is added to the 1994-95 export revenue, the expected amount should be 8 billion dollars. There was a decrease in items manufactured from synthetic fibre in 1994-95 and the decrease is attributed to an extraordinary delay in payment of duty drawbacks by the customs department which in turn affected the financial situation of exporters and caused a fall in exports. It is suggested that if customs officials should be able to straighten out the duty drawback system, an increase in the export of related goods would become possible. Recently, a meeting of the Export Development Board was held under the chairmanship of the prime minister and it was decided that the duty drawback claims of exporters which have been submitted to customs officials but not yet paid would begin in July 1995. But it is already the seventh of July and no satisfactory action has been taken. Even if one accepts that the problem will be solved in the near future, it will still not be possible to meet the [export] target of 9.2 billion dollars. A similar opinion was expressed by the vice president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. In spite of all efforts, exports in the current fiscal year may not exceed eight and a half billion dollars.

3. Mark-up on domestic loans is at least 13 percent annually and there is no maximum limit. The general impression is that the average mark-up rate is 15 percent annually. Exporters have complained that this rate was too high and it prevented them from competing with other countries on the international market. They have been demanding for a long time that they should be

allowed to obtain loans of foreign currency outside the country for exports. According to one estimate, the cost of foreign currency loans including interest and other expenses would be 11 to 12 percent annually and thus exporters would save 2 to 3 percent annually. Another view expressed is that exporters would not in fact be borrowing outside the country; they would be borrowing money from their own foreign currency accounts and returning the money to Pakistan in the form of loans. The money would thus change from foreign currency accounts into loan accounts and back to foreign currency accounts. According to the State Bank regulations, money in foreign currency accounts can be used as collateral against which the bank issues loans in Pakistani rupees. This was the procedure followed until recently because the State Bank mark-up was at least 10 percent and the banks would issue loans at 10 or 11 percent mark-ups. The problem arose when the State Bank raised its mark-up rate to 13 percent while at the same time, the rate of interest on the dollar rose on the international market. The State Bank imposed a fee of 3 percent annually on foreign currency accounts to provide forward cover; the 3 percent fee has now been raised to 4.75 percent. The expenses banks incur on their foreign currency accounts have increased greatly and thus it is no longer possible for them to lend money to exporters against deposits in foreign currency accounts at 11 or 12 percent interest. Hence, exporters are demanding that they be allowed to obtain loans in foreign currency and the government has accepted their demand. It should be noted that India, Indonesia and other countries already allow this concession to exporters. An increase in Pakistan's exports as a result of this action would be greatly welcomed.

2. [paragraphs numbered as published] It has been announced that the procedure concerning jewelry exports would be made easier; since no details have been announced, any comment would be premature.

3. The cotton harvest over the last two or three years has not been good so that cotton was imported instead of exported. The government has decided that for the next three years, cotton could be imported or exported without duty. This long-term decision should give some reassurance to the textile industry which is the country's largest exporter. This decision by the government should also be commended.

4. Insurance companies will now be allowed to open offices outside the country without obtaining permission from the State Bank and Controller of Insurance. There are two sides to this issue; one is that when offices are opened outside the country with the prior permission of the State Bank, the Bank keeps an eye on them and the income earned outside the country is transferred to Pakistan through the banks. Now that the State Bank's control over these agencies will be ended, the transfer of money earned outside the country to Pakistan will depend on the discretion of the companies. The other side to this issue is that bureaucratic control over commercial organizations will decrease and this is in keeping with the over-all policy of the government.

7. [as published] At present, foreigners as well as Pakistanis can take 75000 rupees worth of carpets with them outside the country. For any higher amount, they have to follow procedures laid down for exports. Now the financial limit has been removed with the result that it will no longer be possible to know for certain if the price paid for carpets being taken outside the country is in foreign currency. Thus, the foreign currency account of the country will suffer some loss.

8. The ban on the import of pressure horns is a good decision because the noise from these horns has made life difficult for the people especially in Karachi. The administration has been unsuccessful in dealing with the owners and operators of buses, wagons and coaches and totally unable to carry out the ban on horn-blowing. The question is, now that the import of horns is banned, will they be smuggled into the country.

9. Regulations regarding the import of lubricating and grease oils have been made less stringent; it would have been better, however, if the NOC restrictions had been totally removed and control by bureaucracy further lessened.

10. Certain industrial organizations which export their products will be allowed to pay a lower import duty on imported machinery, raw materials, etc. It has been observed that when different groups pay taxes at different rates on the same products, the result is corruption including bribery. This decision should be rescinded.

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